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comment on FY 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance

1 message

William Jackson <william.r.jackson@frontier.com>

Mon, Mar 18, 2024 at 7:55 AM

To: "housing@cityofevanston.org" <housing@cityofevanston.org>

The following are my comments to the FY 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for Evanston, Illinois: The FY 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for Evanston Illinois ("Plan")

The Plan includes a 60 unit apartment building on South Boulevard ("New Complex") to be constructed on the underused parking lot. [Page 24 of the report.] While this is a good project, the implementation of other proposed projects in the immediate area will result in a lower standard of living and quality of life for both the new residents of the Complex and the surrounding residents of the project.

This is a result of the decision of the City of Evanston to remove all of the parking on Chicago Avenue a block from the New Complex. This is being done to provide a "Gold Standard" of a bike lane on Chicago Avenue for cyclists passing through Evanston primarily.

While a bike lane for non residents of Evanston may be desirable for Evanston's image, the area in which the Complex will be located currently has limited parking. The removal of the parking on Chicago Avenue will mean that health care workers, child care providers and visitors to the New Complex will have to compete with current users for spaces on the streets adjoining the New Complex. Moreover, service personnel (and their trucks), if they want to provide services to the residents of the New Complex and continue serve Chicago Avenue residents and residents of surrounding homes in the area, will also have to compete for the spaces. While there may be spaces allowed in the New Complex for its residents, these will most likely prove not be sufficient for the actual needs of the residents.

It appears that the that the City of Evanston, in an effort to provide a "Gold Standard" bike lane did not consider the needs of current and new residents, as well as the interests of the businesses in the area, particularly the small business community.

It also appeared that the City did not consider the fact that there are other streets in Evanston where both lanes for primarily warm weather bikers and parking options for residents effectively co-exist, including on Chicago Avenue.

While the city is providing more housing in southeast Evanston, unfortunately its is also making it less livable by reducing the standard of living and quality of life for both the current and the new residents of Evanston by the Chicago Avenue bike lane project in its proposed design.

While parking is a problem throughout Evanston, this need not be a zero sum game. There is no justification for making it worse for current and new residents by ignoring the impact of one project on the another.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Jackson, Jr.
Resident of Evanston, Illinois

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