

To: Councilwoman Madonna Flood
Chair, Planning and Design Committee
Louisville Metro Council, District 24

From: Councilman Kelly Downard
District 16

Subject: Willow Grande

Date: April 28, 2015

In the Metro Council hearings conducted last year related to the zoning activity of the Willow Grande Development, I made the following suggestion (as an amendment) that we return the zoning request to the Planning Commission. The developer and the Neighborhood Association were asked to work with each other to reach a compromise position.

Meetings were held pursuant to that request with the result being the proposal before us. The developer reduced the project by 2 floors, with a reduction in building height of eleven feet. The Planning Commission reviewed this case thoroughly. After referring several times to the Landmarks Commission for approval, the Commission approved the district development plan by a vote of 6 to 1 with one waiver passing also with a 6 to 1 vote and all others passing unanimously.

The primary objection of the neighborhood is the lack of compatibility with the surrounding area. The commission did not agree with this and anyone who can see "the Willow", one of the finest residential facilities in Jefferson County, would agree with the Commission.

I believe the parties have complied with my request and the developer has come to the table in the spirit of compromise. However, in my opinion, the few neighborhood negotiations did not. I agree with the statement entered into the record by Councilman Owen after the last deliberation from which he excused himself. I agree with the Commission and if I were here today, I would vote for approval of this request.

Sincerely,
Councilman Kelly Downard

cc: Councilman Glen Stuckel
Vice-Chair, Planning and Design Committee
Louisville Metro Council, District 17

Stephen Ott
Louisville Metro Council Clerk