

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, January 11, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White

Absent: Trustee Cargie

Also Present: Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Police Chief James O’Shea, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Fire Chief Kurt Bohlmann, Public Works Director John Anderson, Village Engineer Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Margie Cekander, 531 River Oaks. Ms. Cekander commented about the stormwater RFP and asked that it include more properties as it relates to river/overland flooding, as well as an evaluation of the impact of NSMP discharge. She also suggested expanding the municipal codes evaluation.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Bachner read a statement to acknowledge that this land was once inhabited by indigenous people and stated that River Forest continues to be a place that people from diverse backgrounds live and gather. She commented about the events of the past week and the past year, and she thanked the people who work at Village Hall. She acknowledged the white supremacy and domestic terrorism on display in the nation, as well as the communities it hurts. She commented about the recent displays of slurs in Oak Park and River Forest and stated the Board needs to do everything it can to make sure they are doing things to make an impact in the spaces where they live. She asked how we have contributed to people’s pain and how can we make it better. She commented about amplifying voices and providing power to those who do not have it. Trustee Bachner also recalled joyful events, such as the toy drive, knowledge around the partnerships created with Dominican and the Twin Village Covenant, and the National Day of Healing on January 19. She commented about the word

healing, noting that they need to continue to make changes and do better. She wished everyone a happy Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day.

Trustee Vazquez stated Trustee Bachner's comments were well said, and that he too is saddened by everything that is going on. He added that the call to action will be continuing their efforts. He discussed focusing on what can be done to improve things, and commented on the Village's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. He reported that he and President Adduci attended a Metropolitan Mayors Caucus meeting on December 23, which covered community engagement of seniors, Dementia-Friendly efforts, and developing surveys of seniors. He noted the Age-Friendly Committee met on December 8 to start developing their own survey, and that the Committee's next step is to determine which topics to focus on at their meeting on January 13.

Clerk Brand-White echoed the comments and expressed gratitude to staff and commissioners for making the community a place to grow. She reminded people to be extra careful about COVID-19 now as it is a tough time of year for seniors and everyone in the community.

Trustee Brennan echoed the previous comments and noted the pain and feelings of fear over the past year but also in the past week, both nationally and locally. She asked about the status of the DEI initiatives and stated it is even more important that the Village shows its commitment, noting she did not want to lose the opportunity to make forward progress. She reported that she attended a PlanItGreen annual leaders meeting and stated she was impressed by the students at the meeting. She stated she hopes the Sustainability Commission will contact the students and find a way to work with them. Trustee Brennan also shared she had a ComEd home assessment last month and noted Nicor also offers them.

President Adduci stated they will continue discussing the DEI initiatives at the next Board meeting. She also noted Dominican passed their portion of the partnership and that she thinks they are making great progress moving forward with the working groups. She reminded everyone about the National Day of Racial Healing on January 19.

Trustee Henek echoed the comments around the events that happened nationally and locally, noting the concern of these things continuing to happen. She noted the Board's role in making true, impactful changes, and stated racism does not always show itself in the form of a brick and that invisible racism can be at times more dangerous and hurtful. She expressed the importance of moving forward and looking through the lens of people's experiences, and the importance of the committee to help facilitate conversations and what policies or things the Village is doing that may perpetuate racism that is being experienced. Trustee Henek expressed disappointment that it has taken this long and stated she is pushing that the Board continue these conversations in all areas in order to make impactful changes around equity and inclusion. She also commented about the upcoming local election, stating she is excited and impressed by the 12 residents running for local office. She encouraged all residents to think about all the candidates and keep it on a positive, constructive level and to not take things personally. She stated residents can have differences about things and asked that everyone be respectful and positive to each of the candidates and their supporters.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek about yard signs, Assistant Administrator Scheiner stated the Village is not looking to enforce candidate yard signs proactively. Administrator Palm stated the only issue is with signs in the parkway or large banners.

Trustee O'Connell reflected on the past year and stated he has been working from home for 10 months. He commented that while listening to the tragedy occurring in Washington, he was driving in an area of people who were not like-minded. He commented about democracy and recalled the good things the Board accomplished and did. He stated they dealt with resident concerns in a fair and equitable way and encouraged keeping the focus on taking care of the residents.

President Adduci commented on the events of last Wednesday and expressed her disappointment in what happened, noting she hoped those who cherish democracy and the rule of law feel the same. She asked how it got to this point and how to deal with it. She stated what is needed is radical empathy, understanding, and a shared desire to repair the broken nation. She stated the community can start its own healing during the National Day of Racial Healing event, which will highlight the newly signed Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Resolution and honor students at Dominican engaged in social justice. She stated the community must go forward with eyes wide open as they work for peace, healing, and understanding. President Adduci emphasized the Board's actions thus far, including the Twin Village Covenant with Maywood and the partnership with Dominican. She stated that still before them is the advisory group, to which they remain committed. She expressed her pride in Staff, the Board, and the community for embracing change and taking action to get change done. President Adduci also thanked and congratulated Helen Kwan, who was one of the Wednesday Journal's Villagers of the Year for coordinating the COVID-19 Senior Task Force. She noted the vaccine rollout is being administered and directed by the Cook County Department of Public Health and information about it will be communicated in the E-newsletter. She also shared an update from Trustee Cargie about the Deer Management Committee, noting they will continue discussing the survey and other non-lethal methods for deer management at their next meeting. Management Analyst Phyfer confirmed the next meeting is scheduled for January 19 at 7:30pm.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – November 30, 2020
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Meeting Minutes – November 30, 2020
- c. Award of Bid and Contract to Superior Road Striping Inc. in the amount of \$131,410.74 for the Bicycle Sign and Pavement Marking Project
- d. Agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for Access to Geographic Information Systems Data (through the Municipal GIS Partners Consortium)
- e. Amendment to Section 3-3-1 of the Village Code Regarding Plumbing Contractor Licenses – Ordinance Located at 1136 Monroe
- f. Monthly Department Reports
- g. Performance Measurement Report

- h. Accounts Payable – November 2020 – \$2,289,001.36
- i. Accounts Payable – December 2020 – \$1,361,413.25
- j. Monthly Financial Report – November 2020
- k. Monthly Financial Report – December 2020
- l. Village Administrator’s Report

Trustee Henek made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-B and D-L.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek about ambulance fees, Chief Bohlman stated the Village received approximately \$5,000 from Phase 3 of the CARES Act for lost revenues.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: Trustee Cargie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell, to approve the Consent Agenda item C.

Trustee Henek reiterated her previous comments about encouraging biking but having concerns with spending money on a plan like this when the Village is not sure where the finances will shake out. She encouraged looking at finances holistically and being more mindful of spending at this time. She stated she had hoped the discussions would lead to phased costs so they could prioritize spending, and she acknowledged the County grant may have helped move things forward. She stated that she personally would have preferred the option of looking at this in a different way and perhaps having more funds available for supporting small businesses.

Trustee O’Connell asked what a breakdown would look like, and he stated the reference to the last item on the agenda is a courtesy to the business owner and not a suggestion that her business is in trouble. He also stated that the budget was reviewed recently and Finance Director McAdams has not told the Board there are financial issues. He further commented that it is not going to get cheaper to do this next year.

Trustee Henek stated the phases she is referring to are those laid out in the Bike Plan, so the breakdown would have been what each phase potentially costs. She advocated going that route and being more conservative in the Village’s spending.

Trustee Brennan stated biking has increased greatly during the pandemic and that she considered the work done under the plan to be a safety issue. She encouraged the Village continue with it.

President Adduci concurred.

Administrator Palm reminded the Board that the implementation would be paid out of the Capital Improvements Fund, which is separate from operational funds. He noted the Village has pulled back on capital expenditures. He also commented that the funding is available and earmarked, and that this was identified as a goal and priority. He emphasized the funding is separate from the discussions on the operational side. He further stated Staff would not put forward a recommendation if funding was not available.

President Adduci stated that is why the Board talks through these issues so that they are not put in a spot where something under consideration is not properly funded.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: Trustee Cargie

Nays: Trustee Henek

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- a. November and December Accounts Payable from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$140.09 (*Trustee O'Connell Common Law Conflict of Interest*)

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to approve payment from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$208.46.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Henek, Vazquez

Abstain: Trustee O'Connell

Absent: Trustee Cargie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Age Friendly Committee – Recommendation to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Oak Park and Oak Park and River Forest Townships regarding a Home Repair Program Partnership

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Oak Park, and Oak Park and River Forest Townships for a Home Repair Program Partnership.

Trustee Vazquez summarized this item and stated Pam Mahn presented the program at the Committee's meeting. He noted the program helps seniors with minor repairs and would be offered on a sliding scale. He highlighted the good effort from both villages and that River Forest's role would be to promote the program. He stated it is a small investment to help seniors.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner, Trustee Vazquez reviewed the Dementia-Friendly efforts in the Village, led by Dr. Lydia Manning.

Chief O'Shea noted the value-added for having officers trained.

There was also a brief discussion about mental health training.

Trustee Vazquez thanked Pam Mahn, Carla Sloan, and his fellow Committee members.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: Trustee Cargie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

President Adduci commented it is a great program for seniors and the Village.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. An Ordinance Granting Fence Height Variations for Properties at 803, 811, 815, 821, 825 and 831 Bonnie Brae Place – Ordinance

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner, to approve an Ordinance Granting Fence Height Variations for Properties at 803, 811, 815, 821, 825 and 831 Bonnie Brae Place – Ordinance.

Administrator Palm reviewed the history of this item.

In response to a question from Trustee O'Connell, Mr. Palm clarified zoning variations only require a 250' property owner notice.

In response to another question from Trustee O'Connell, Mr. Palm stated theoretically the property owners could construct fences to different heights but stated he did not think that would happen.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: Trustee Cargie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- b. Update: Stormwater Master Plan Request for Proposal (RFP)

Village Engineer Loster reviewed the history of this item and stated the feedback received during the public meetings has been incorporated into the RFP. He also stated that upon

advice from the Village Attorney, Staff will first issue a Request for Qualifications. In response to Ms. Cekander's comments, Mr. Loster stated the scope of the RFP includes NSMP Phase 2. He stated the Stormwater Master Plan may not be the appropriate avenue to look into adverse impacts of Phase 1, but that is something that could be looked into separately. He also noted the stormwater ordinance revisions are included in the scope in terms of grading. He noted an analysis of all overland flooding associated with the river is also included in the scope. Mr. Loster stated he felt Ms. Cekander's items were included in the scope of the RFP and emphasized that public meetings are part of the RFP process, so there are opportunities to fine tune what items are feasible to study.

Trustee Brennan suggested modifying the language regarding overland flow flooding.

There was a brief discussion about overland flow flooding, and Mr. Palm clarified Thatcher is the dividing line – west of Thatcher is overland flow flooding and east is storm sewers being overcharged.

Trustee Henek discussed issues with backyard flooding and shared a conversation she had with a resident on 600 Forest who experiences this, as well as his concerns about impacting a utility pole in his backyard. She stated his suggestion was to think about the possibility of, on a case by case basis, allowing the release of that water to drain back into the sewers. She asked whether in terms of modeling, there was a way to simulate some of these properties being able to drain out and having a way to assess the scope of backyard. Trustee Henek suggested if there are only a handful of these properties, the Village could allow a variance to drain yards more easily.

Mr. Loster stated that for the right price, that could be included in the scope. He stated even if the backyards are studied, they would be allowing them to drain back into sewers that are woefully undersized. He stated the RFP could incorporate backyard drainage, but that the consultant would be best to answer the questions of how do we do it and address those issues.

Mr. Palm stated it is a completely different scope and that right now, it is focused on the Village's utilities. He stated that he is not trying to downplay the residents who have backyard flooding but that as a municipality, they are trying to focus on public infrastructure or things tied to public infrastructure. He stated the Village has always taken the approach that if it is a private property issue, that is on the property owner.

President Adduci stated there are different options to mitigate backyard flooding and suggested the resident talk to Staff.

Trustee O'Connell stated Superintendent Mark Janopoulos has visited residents and offered advice.

Trustee Henek stated this homeowner has reached out to Staff. She acknowledged the options and stated there are some still experiencing extensive flooding. She asked what the Village can do for those experiencing flooding.

President Adduci stated there was consensus to move forward with some tweaks and directed Staff to issue the RFP to see what they get.

President Adduci read comments from Johann Buis regarding long-term planning, and she noted the Village always looks at the broader long-term.

Mr. Palm stated they will next go through the qualifying process and then the Staff recommendation on the contract.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Good Earth Greenhouse Liquor License Partial Fee Waiver

Trustee Brennan, made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to approve a partial fee rebate for Good Earth Greenhouse of \$2,000 for a total of \$500 for Class 1 and Class 4B liquor licenses for 2021.

Administrator Palm reviewed the request and noted Good Earth Greenhouse is the only restaurant that holds a liquor license. He stated the others are grocery stores and pharmacies. He stated that in conversation with the owner, they explained they are unable to use the restaurant portion of their liquor license and are asking for some consideration. He reviewed the fees.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner about other area businesses potentially being interested in a license, Mr. Palm explained the liquor license process and noted the Board would have to approve an increase in a number of liquor licenses within a certain category. There was a discussion about how to approach licensing for 2021 and being consistent.

Trustee Brennan stated she liked the idea of the rebate, which addresses the period of time they were unable to use the license and asked about giving a rebate for the period of time it was paid for and not able to be used.

Trustee Henek discussed how the Village is helping small businesses, and she asked how is it determined which businesses get that benefit or not? She stated they need to be advocates for all the businesses.

Trustee O'Connell stated his opinion is that the Board adjust the fee and wait for other businesses to come in and ask for assistance.

Mr. Palm clarified this item only relates to the liquor license. He reiterated that the other licensees are grocery stores, which have not been impacted by COVID-19. He stated that regarding equity, the property tax freeze hits everybody proportionately. He also recalled the extension of business license fees and emphasized that if Staff saw something affecting the businesses on a larger scale, they would let the Board know.

There was more discussion about being equitable with the other River Forest businesses. Mr. Palm noted the other measures taken to help the business community.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan, Village Attorney Smith stated using the term “rebate” is best because it can be done under the Village’s general economic authority.

Trustee Vazquez stated he is fine with businesses coming to the Board for them to evaluate and that they do not want to start automatically giving things out.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: Trustee Cargie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Village Attorney Smith announced that because the Board would be going into Executive Session on a different Zoom line, there would be no further discussion or action after Executive Session and that the Board would adjourn immediately after.

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell to go into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village; and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the Village at 9:07p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: Trustee Cargie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

The Village Board returned to regular session at 9:53p.m. with the following members present: President Adduci, Trustees Brennan, Bachner, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Brand-White.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Henek made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 9:53p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: Trustee Cargie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk

From: [REDACTED]
To: [VBOI](#)
Cc: [Sustainability](#)
Subject: Comments for Board of Trustees Meeting January 11, 2021
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021 3:22:01 PM
Attachments: [RF_Trustees_Jan11.docx](#)

Attached are my comments on leaf blower and sustainability issues.

Sincerely,
Gary Howell
551 Park Avenue, RF

Comments to the Village of River Forest Trustees for the January 11, 2021 Meeting

Subject: Use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers by Landscape Contractors

At its November 30, 2020 meeting, as reported by oakpark.com on December 9, 2020, the Board had an extensive discussion of noisy landscape equipment, especially gas-powered leaf blowers. I have some thoughts on this subject for your consideration.

In the last couple of years, I have noticed a big increase in the size and noise of the equipment that landscape contractors are using, as well as the way that it is being used. The noise and pollution from the use of these machines is a quality of life issue for Village residents.

The leaf blower season in River Forest now lasts nearly nine months. In early March, 2020, I heard the first blower of the season – a sound that I had not missed. The roar and steady, persistent whine of the blowers can be heard for blocks, and it did not stop until after Thanksgiving. As you and other Village officials heard from residents, people feel strongly about this. Many municipalities, and the District of Columbia, have banned or restricted gas-powered blowers.¹

To work in the Village, all contractors, including landscape contractors, must be bonded and insured, and licensed by the Village. The Village can impose additional requirements on contractors and has done so for electricians, plumbers, pesticide applicators and others. What could the Village do?

First, since the machines in question are “leaf blowers,” why not restrict contractors’ use of them to the times when there are leaves to blow – spring cleanup and autumn cleanup?

Several Chicago-area communities have enacted seasonal bans on gas blowers. Evanston, for example, restricts the use of gas-powered leaf blowers to two periods: March 30 to May 15 and September 30 to the first Thursday of December.²

This makes sense. Outside of spring and fall, the use of leaf blowers looks like nothing but busy work. When a lawn crew arrives, one member starts up a blower and walks around the property, waving the blower at the ground – before any mowing is done. Then as the lawn is mowed, blower guy walks around the property again, waving the blower at the ground-- from which the mown grass has already been sucked away by the mower. No one who takes care of their own lawn would do this. Cleanup of clippings from the sidewalk or driveway, or incidental cleanup around plantings, could easily be done with a broom or rake in the time that blower guy spends walking around waving the blower.

I urge the Board to consider a similar seasonal restriction. There is ample time to adopt and communicate it to contractors and residents before the summer no-blow period would begin.

¹ See https://hdsupplysolutions.com/s/leaf_blower_noise_regulation#

² See <https://www.cityofevanston.org/home/showdocument?id=33461>

Second, how can the Village reduce the need for gas-powered leaf blowing? Today, we are generating noise and pollution to pile up leaves in the street. The piles of leaves create a traffic nuisance, block sewers, and may contribute to flooding. How can this situation be improved?

I agree with the suggestion of Trustees Bachner and Henek for the Village Sustainability Commission to make a study of landscape contractors' use of blowers and other practices, and the effects of these practices, and then make recommendations to the Board on appropriate requirements for these contractors. The Commission could also issue a guide for residents on sustainable lawn and garden care. In doing this work, the Commission could draw on in-house expertise from the Forestry Division, and outside sources such as the Morton Arboretum (which I have found to be very helpful with questions about lawn and tree care). Subjects that the Commission could consider include:

--What are good practices for dealing with leaves, as alternatives to blowing and hauling them away? For example, leaves can be used as natural mulch for trees and plantings and will decompose to enrich the soil, and leaves left on a lawn can be mowed with a mulch blade and will decompose and fertilize the soil. Homeowners can do this themselves, and contractors could provide such sustainable services.

--Going beyond leaves, what other sustainable practices could be encouraged and supported? These include planting low-mow lawns, and reducing lawn space in favor of plants that will aid in flood control by absorbing more rainfall than a conventional grass lawn. A related question is whether contractors' use of large, heavy stand-on mowers compacts the soil in parkways and lawns, preventing moisture and nutrients from getting to tree roots, and should therefore be discouraged.

--How can landscape contractors be encouraged or incentivized to adopt more sustainable practices? For example, should the Village require that any work for the Village be done using specified sustainable practices?

I think that these matters go to the quality of life of all Village residents, and the sustainability of our urban environment, and I hope that you will consider these comments.

Sincerely,

Gary Howells

551 Park Avenue, River Forest

January 9, 2021

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sara Phyfer](#)
Subject: Potential Fence Variation 803, 811, 815, 821, 825, and 831 Bonnie Brae Place
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021 10:57:34 AM

Dear the Board of Trustees,

As a former resident of 826 Harlem Ave, River Forest, and currently residing close to Harlem Ave, River Forest, I am sending this email to go against fence variation 803, 811, 815, 821, 825, and 831 Bonnie Brae Place.

Once there will be variation, all the other neighbors in Bonnie Brae or other street will ask for variations too. Along Harlem Ave, there are already lots of non-residential buildings or facilities. And it is expected to have more and more commercial or non-residential buildings in the future since village is seeking more tax resources. Furthermore, only 803, 811, 815, 821, 825 Bonnie Brae place is backing the nursing home building, 831 Bonnie Brae Pl doesn't have direct contact with the nursing home from their boarder line. If we allow this variation, all other Bonnie Brae or other homes sharing their back yard with the homes on the boundary of River Forest will ask to have variations in the future. Which I think will damages the conformity of River Forest community and segregate the residents among inner-boundary homes and on-boundary homes.

Once the nursing home is done and still thinks it affects their life too much they can plant some bushes and trees in their back yard. But raising high fences against one particular building which doesn't have opened up its business yet in River Forest doesn't makes sense.

If this nursing home affects neighboring homes' privacy too much, I think the residents who wants this variation should be Sam's family in 830 Harlem Ave, River Forest not 803, 811, 815, 821, 825, and 831 Bonnie Brae Place. Since 830 Harlem shares its border line with the nursing home in the longest and the closest scale.

I understand the frustration of the change of the residential landscaping of River Forest, however, putting up higher fences by giving them a variation is only granting privileges for certain people, which doesn't solve the problem of conflicts between residential and commercial area. It is not fair for other homes of River Forest which sharing boarder with other commercial buildings. Furthermore, it is damaging the conformity of River Forest as a community.

Hyunsoo "Helen" Lee

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Sara Phyfer](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment: Request For Potential Fence Variation 803, 811, 815, 821, 825, and 831 Bonnie Brae Place
Date: Monday, January 11, 2021 12:05:46 PM

Hi Sara,

I am reaching out on behalf of myself and my wife (Shana Taveras) as residents of 842 N Harlem Ave, River Forest, IL 60305.

We are fully in support of this variance as there will be no negative impacts to any pre-existing residents or to the future residents of the development (as they won't know any different) and will benefit those that have been the most negatively affected by the development.

Allowing a 12ft fence would be a very minor concession given the significant impact the construction of the development has had on our neighbors' day-to-day lives. Furthermore, it will offer some modest improvement in the long-term impacts once the building is fully completed, like reducing vehicle noise (whether passenger or ambulance traffic through the parking lot) and improved privacy.

One could even argue that the erection of the fence should be done at the expense of the developers, as the structure's necessity is driven by the existence of the development itself, but that is a separate discussion altogether.

Regards
Richard Taveras

<http://richtaveras.com> | [REDACTED]