



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2017

Neighbors & Forest Advocates Plan for Vigorous Debate at Wednesday's Zoning Hearing for Northeastside Development

Indianapolis IN -- "Haverstick Woods is the last forest stand along the busiest retail corridor in the city of Indianapolis," said Driftwood Hills resident Stacey Clark. "For our quality of life, this forest -- all of it -- needs to stay."

Clark and many of her neighbors oppose a 60,000 sq. ft. two-story retail/office space development known as "Alexander at the Crossing" proposed by Keystone Realty at the corner of East 86th St. and Haverstick Rd. across the street from the Ironworks development. The Metropolitan Development Commission hears the zoning case Wednesday afternoon October 4 at the City-County building, and the neighbors will be ready.

"We oppose this development for a whole host of reasons," says Elizabeth Mahoney, northside resident and president of the River Park Neighborhood board. "The first is that the 15-acre forest provides services to the many nearby residents: buffering the urban heat island effect, mitigating air and noise pollution, and absorbing storm water runoff from all the nearby developments.

"The second is that Haverstick Woods is a prime potential urban park, in an area sorely in need of parks and natural areas -- an area that already is stacked to the gills with commercial retail and office space," Mahoney said. The nearest city park is Marott Nature Preserve, 3.5 miles, followed by Holliday Park and Sahm, both 4.5 miles away. In June, the Nora Community Council voted 9-2 to oppose the development. Last week, the Department of Metropolitan Development issued its staff report, recommending the denial of the developer's request to zone the land for a mixed-use two-story building, citing the "threat commercial use would have on the stability of the residential neighborhood along this corridor."

"The Indiana Forest Alliance is very concerned about the explosion of development that has wiped out virtually all of the once relatively-abundant forest and greenspace in this part of Marion County within the last 20 to 50 years," says Jeff Stant, executive director of the Indiana Forest Alliance.

Neighbor Stacey Clark cites the Mayor's new *It's My City* initiative, with its emphasis on green spaces as quality of life indicators, as another reason the zoning board should reject this development.

"Increasing the density and traffic congestion is not desirable here," said Clark. "Protecting the residential nature of the area and retaining a rare urban forest are."

Wednesday's hearing is part of the Metropolitan Development Commission's meeting, from 1 - 4 p.m. at the City-County Building, room 230.

###

ABOUT THE INDIANA FOREST ALLIANCE

IFA is a non-profit, statewide organization founded in 1996 and dedicated to preserving and restoring Indiana's native hardwood forest ecosystem for the enjoyment of all. Through expert research, influential advocacy, effective organizing, powerful storytelling, and when necessary, litigation, IFA ensures that the integrity of Indiana's forest ecosystem thrives as a natural resource to benefit native wildlife, soil, air and water quality; and as the emblem of our natural heritage. By leading a coalition of citizens, organizations and decision makers, IFA establishes, protects, and restores forests for future generations.