



**THE COUNCIL
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
MARION COUNTY**

CHRISTINE SCALES

Councillor, District 3

Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Development Commission:

I am writing in regards to Petition# 2016-ZON-020. The parcel of land considered for development is located in District 2, on the northwest corner of Keystone and E.86th Street. I serve as the City County Councillor representing District 3, the boundary of which includes the north and southeast side corners of Keystone and E.86th Street. Decisions pertaining to development of this intersection will equally affect businesses and residents in Districts 2 and 3.

I strongly urge MDC Board members to heed Staff's recommendation to deny the above petition request. I concur with Staff's well thought out reasons for denial and wish to add to the information provided from knowledge gained through 10 years of Council representation.

The preservation of trees on the subject site provides many benefits. Aside from their aesthetic value, tree leaves, bark and roots absorb water and reduce the volume of runoff. This is important, as the City of Indianapolis has already identified more than 380 priority drainage problem areas which will cost approximately \$320 million to address. It is imperative that the City and all its agencies work proactively to prevent future issues or exacerbate existing drainage problems.

Having referenced the aesthetic value of trees, it should be mentioned that maintaining this acreage in its natural form, aligns with goals set forth by Mayor Hogsett in his "It's My City" campaign. Decisions made by appointed and elected officials should follow the Mayor's lead in making Indianapolis "cleaner, greener, and more beautiful". In my capacity as Councillor, I have become well versed in public safety issues affecting the high volume traffic corridor of E.86th Street. Through conversations with Shift Captains of IFD Station 6, located adjacent to North Central High School, and approximately one mile from the Keystone/E.86th Street intersection, I have learned that the congestion faced at all hours of the day affects the ability of fire apparatus to quickly leave the station and progress onto E.86th. School drop off and pick up times add to Station 6's problems. A convoy of school buses lines up daily along E.86th awaiting entrance to North Central. That situation blocks traffic and further complicates Station 6's ability to merge into traffic. When responding to emergencies, every minute counts as a lifesaving one. Any actions resulting in traffic volume increases to congestion already existing along E.86th Street, must consider first responder's ability to safely and quickly respond to emergencies. There are many north side commercial land parcels that are prime for re-development. The availability of green space on the north side of Indianapolis as that offered at E. 86th and Keystone is limited and must be treasured and protected. Please vote to treasure and protect and deny Petition Request #2016-ZON-020.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Scales".

Christine Scales

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