

Testimony of Pasha Fedorenko in support of McMillan development project. Case #13-14

My name is Pasha Fedorenko. And I live in Bloomingdale with my wife and 1-year old daughter just two blocks from the McMillan filtration site.

I am here to voice my support for the McMillan redevelopment project. We have heard about this project for the last four years since moving to the neighborhood, and every time we get excited, something derails it.

I understand the opponents' desire to have as much green space as possible in the neighborhood, and appreciate their efforts, as well as the efforts of the development partner, and this commission in making a well thought-out development plan that I believe takes into account interests of all the neighborhood residents. McMillan development, as outlined today, will give a major boost to the neighborhood by providing a number of things that Bloomingdale needs:

1. A real grocery store within walking distance for the neighborhood residents
2. Improved safety of the neighborhood driven by higher pedestrian traffic and retail
3. A large safe park and a community center open to the public
4. Additional tax revenue for the city, which is so needed to support our public schools and law enforcement
5. New well-paying jobs
6. And elimination of the industrial eyesore behind barbed wire fence, that has been McMillan sand filtration site for over 30 years

This plan is the result of careful preparation, a number of public hearings, and substantial amount of back and forth among all stakeholders. Of course, no plan is perfect and can ever achieve 100% satisfaction for everybody. But let's not make perfectionism get in the way of significant improvement to the neighborhood. This process has lasted years, and I believe the time to compromise and move forward is now. I urge the commission to approve the plan and remove the last roadblock to its implementation. Delaying the project will ensure the industrial site will remain as is: blocked off from the public, a burden on city's finances, and a source of ongoing hearings about intricate legal details for another 30 years.

Speedy approval of this development will turn a blocked off large industrial site in the middle of the city into a thriving addition to the neighborhood, which will provide tax revenue, employment opportunities, new homes, recreational and shopping spaces to the neighborhood residents, and a number of other tangible and intangible benefits. Let's do this now to make sure we and our families have the opportunity to enjoy this space in our lifetimes.

Thank you,

Pasha Fedorenko