



## Office of the Common Council

Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, District 5

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### Alder Report Summer 2009

Dear neighbors,

Below, I share a summary of key issues before the city, particularly those that pertain to District 5.

#### **Pedestrian Safety Improvements**

We have a number of initiatives under way in District 5, many in response to your specific comments and requests. In late July, I had a very productive meeting with David Dryer, Director of Traffic Engineering, and remain in regular communication with him. Based on invaluable input from RNA Board members Jason Bittner and George Hall and communications I received from a number of you, I have been working with city staff the following initiatives:

##### ***Adding & Repainting Crosswalks***

- Allen Street & Chadbourne (DONE) /Van Hise (DONE)/Chamberlain/Kendall (DONE)
- Highland Ave & Van Hise (DONE)/Chamberlain/Kendall (DONE)
- Old University Ave. & Allen (DONE)
- Repainting of most existing crosswalks throughout the neighborhood (DONE)

##### ***Adding Signs***

- Speed limit signs on Allen, Highland & Old University Ave
- Pedestrian Crossing signs- Allen, Highland, Farley, Regent and Old University
- Speed readers: I am working with Traffic Engineering and the Police Department to explore the possibility of piloting small digital solar-powered speed readers in a couple of locations in our neighborhood. Here is an example of such speed readers: <http://informationdisplay.com/>. Middleton has been has installed a number of them.

##### ***Traffic Calming Measures***

- Allen St. Traffic Calming- a petition needs to be redone to have Allen be considered for traffic calming. I would be happy to work with interested Allen resident(s) in getting a new petition done. So if you leave on Allen and are interested in getting this process restarted, please contact me.
- Highland Ave Traffic Calming- Highland Ave. is scheduled for reconstruction in 2011. I have requested that traffic calming plans be fully integrated as part of the reconstruction. I will be working with City Engineering to ensure that there is a concerted effort to engage residents in such plans.

### **Parking Enforcement**

I have discussed with Captain Balles the need for increased parking enforcement in our neighborhood. There will be special attention to enforcement in the first few weeks of September, as classes resume at UW. Please let me know if you experience issues with lack of enforcement on specific blocks in the neighborhood.

### **Farley University Ave intersection**

The City has entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Shorewood Hills to conduct a traffic and pedestrian safety and operations study of this intersection (<http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/detailreport/?key=16844>.) Once the study is done, I will make sure to share its findings and any proposed plans with all of you.

### **Campus Drive Landscaping**

Thank you to all of you who pointed to the need for improving the landscaping on Campus Drive now that the repaving is done. I could not agree more with you. The good news: after doing some checking, I have found out that there seems to be some funding available to do so! I will keep you updated.

### **Olive Jones Park**

I have had a number of initial meetings and discussions about the rebuilding of the Olive Jones. I intend to set up a meeting in the Fall to bring all parties to the table so we can set a timeline for this much-needed project to move forward.

### **UW Energy Institute Building:**

The University of Wisconsin is proposing to build a new facility on the campus at 1552 University Avenue (site of the old University Health Services building) at the corner of University Avenue and Breese Terrace. The new building will house the Wisconsin Energy Institute. I will be sending you more information about this project in a separate email.

### **Building inspection**

I have had regular communication with the Building Inspection Unit to share some of the concerns about the upkeep of some houses in our neighborhood, especially student rental houses on the East end of the neighborhood. There has been an increase in inspections. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns about a specific property.

### **Zoning Code Rewrite**

For the past 1.5 years, the City has been working on a comprehensive zoning code rewrite. Our current City of Madison Zoning Code dates back to 1966! The Public Review Draft for the City of Madison Zoning Code Rewrite is now available at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/zoningRewrite/>

### **Major City Redevelopment Proposals:**

#### ▪ *Edgewater Redevelopment Proposal*

The proposal has started to make its way through the city process. For more information on the proposal: <http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/detailreport/matter.aspx?key=17279>

- **Central Library**

There are currently two main options being considered: building a brand new central library (Fiore-Irgens proposal) and rehabbing of the current library (HGA proposal). The following document summarizes the options, costs, and recommendation by the Central Library Surplus Property Criteria and Section Committee:

<http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/attachments/7711f96a-18a8-48b7-b5c9-33afd9bedae.pdf>

I am very interested to hear your thoughts about these redevelopment proposals.

### **2010 City Budget**

The City Budget is the most important action the Common Council takes all year.

- Capital Budget: The Mayor will introduce his Executive Budget to the Common Council on 09/01
- Operating Budget: The Mayor will introduce his Executive Budget to the Common Council on 10/6. Adoption of final budget by Common Council will occur between 11/10-11/12

Please check the following link for the budget calendar & other budget information:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/comp/budgetindex.htm>

There are numerous opportunities for citizen input throughout the process. I encourage you to participate in the budget process by sharing your priorities with the Mayor, my fellow alders and me.

Lastly, I would like to thank RNA President Darsi Foss, the entire RNA Board and all of you for your continued dedication to our neighborhood and our city. I feel humbled to represent you on the City Council.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, questions, and/or concerns. I can be reached at [district5@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district5@cityofmadison.com) or (608) 220-6986

Respectfully,

Shiva Bidar-Sielaff  
District 5 Alder