



## Office of the Common Council

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March 12, 2009

Mr. Mark Olinger, Director  
City of Madison  
Department of Planning, Community, and Economic Development  
Madison Municipal Building  
215 Martin Luther King Boulevard, Room LL-110  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Olinger:

I am writing to request that the department consider using an intern this summer to thoroughly research and document the allowable occupancy of houses in the Greenbush and Vilas neighborhoods.

As I know you are aware, the city downzoned these neighborhoods many years ago in order to encourage single-family occupancy. As part of that process, many properties were 'grandfathered-in' which allows them to be occupied by a specified number of unrelated individuals based on the occupancy by parcel at the time of the down zoning.

I know you are also aware that this information has not been collected in one readily accessible place and in my experience has been shrouded in mystery. I am hoping that the department will consider this request especially timely given the zoning code rewrite effort and the on-going Greenbush-Vilas Workforce Housing Initiative, both of which have been among my highest priorities. Having a fact-based understanding of the 'grandfathered' properties is extremely important considering the new zoning classifications for these areas and to advancing the work of the housing initiative now underway and jointly undertaken by the neighborhood associations, UW-Madison, Meriter, and St. Mary's with support from a city planning grant.

I would appreciate having the opportunity to sit down with you and any staff members you feel appropriate to discuss this request in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Julia S. Kerr  
Aldersperson  
District 13

cc: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz  
Members of the Greenbush-Vilas Workforce Housing Initiative  
Members of the Zoning Code Rewrite Committee  
President, Vilas Neighborhood Association