

Re: Development in the 800 Block of Pennsylvania Street

April 7, 2006
RECEIVED

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Dear Commissioners:

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

My name is Sierra and I have lived in the 800 block of New Jersey my entire life of eighteen years. I believe that the project that Harris is proposing is not going to do anything good for the rest of the neighborhood. The entire atmosphere of the neighborhood will change from families and kids to cars and shoppers. Mr. Harris does not live here. He is not looking out for the community like we are, he is looking for profits. I believe that that it will ruin the community if he is allowed to proceed.

I see traffic everywhere, coming and going. I see Kentucky street, Tennessee Street... I see the units not selling as planned and being sold as an apartment complex... I see no families moving in as there are no yards or outdoor space and the school declining. I see a congested alleyway not designed for the increased traffic load. I see people parking in our yards and in the alley as there isn't a place to park when their friends come over... I see trash cans and dumpsters and cars when I look out my back door. I see a mass of buildings 3 stories high, as tall as Pepperjacks downtown... I see property taxes going up ... I see displaced people as the neighborhood will have to absorb those hundreds of cars... and their property tax too high to continue living here... I see an historic neighborhood, 150 years old being exploited by high density and retail... I see the city paying \$1 million for infrastructure that the neighborhood does not want... I see nothing that will provide any benefits for the neighborhood... I see no real recreation that will encourage people to lead healthier lives... walking, biking, fitness center... I see no plan for diverting traffic such as making Pennsylvania a walking street... I see no need for URBAN development in an area that is a working class neighborhood... and not in fact URBAN... I see 5 years of construction and noise... I see not being able to rent my house as there will be long term construction... I see people walking thru the yards coming and going under the influence of alcohol... I see the surrounding streets with cars parked on them like Kentucky and Tennessee... I see street lights and car lights shining through my windows at all hours of the night... I see accidents with people backing out of their drives to get to work backing into each other or other parked cars or fences... I see the west side buildings not being made of brick like the east side of the street but framed condos built to save money... I see no common areas for the unit buildings both inside and out... I see no elderly living units for people 55 or older... I see no small pool for all those people to relax at as most apartment complexes offer... I see the people that live there paying extra for the street improvements and extra for building management plus the \$150,000 for their units with limited parking and no outdoor areas... I see no plan that unites the Burroughs bike trail and river for a walkable area... I see no passive solar designs for the buildings... (like Babcock Towers). I see no affordable housing... I see no community involvement in the project.

Sierra Farwell

