

Gomez, Adeline

From: RemMayK@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2006 7:51 PM
To: Becker, Gary; Brown, David; okfair@sbcglobal.net; chris@dpwigley.com; wclingman@wi.rr.com; historiccentury@hotmail.com
Subject: BID#1

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*Honorable Gary Becker
Mayor, City of Racine
City Hall
730 Washington Avenue
Racine, WI 53403*

Re: B.I.D. #1

Dear Mayor Becker:

I appeared before the Finance Committee on Monday, October 23, regarding the B.I.D. #1. The Finance Committee suggested I write you regarding ideas for structural BID changes as you, as mayor, make appointments and approve structure.

From its inception in 2002, The BID has been managed by a private corporation, DRC. The BID was proposed and structured by DRC members and the board has been exclusively DRC members year after year. Having attended every public meeting I can honestly say that there is practically no public involvement in this BID as it currently exists. The public meeting held last week was attended by the Schardings, myself and some man with a hat. The allocations made in 2002 are the same as those proposed for 2007. The proposed budget states on page 3, "#1. The BID law provides a mechanism whereby private property owners can work together in conjunction with the City to develop the district." Well, it is not working this way. It has never worked this way.

Here are a few suggestions that deserve consideration:

1. BID board members should represent geographic areas within the BID, such as the riverfront, anchors A, B, and C, Marquette and Sixth Street Area, Seventh Street, Wisconsin Avenue. If locations were represented, there would

be, without question, a revamping of allocations and priorities. It is my understanding that there are currently two openings on the BID board. I have spoken to Chris Flynn and to Wayne Klingman, both of whom would be interested. I also believe Bonnie S. (Academy of Dance) would make a good board member as well as Wilbur Jones (Sixth and Seventh Streets).

2. The BID needs independence. DRC cannot help promoting its own membership and agenda but it is out of place in the context of the BID because the DRC agenda is not the purpose of the BID. The BID is supposed to be a chamber of commerce type body "developing the district". The taxpayer is never asked if we would like to do away with this BID or change the allocations or change the structure. An educated guess is that most taxpayers do not even know there are options available because nobody is pointing this out (as an independent administrator would do). I want a BID that promotes my street and my Anchor C. I did not invest in a building so that I could become a Saturday morning vendor or a First Friday vendor on Monument Square and pay DRC for the privilege of abandoning my storefront (these were suggestions this year).

3. I would like to see the BID for 2007 focus on the pedestrianization of downtown in preparation for the second phase of reconstruction. Walking trails. Traffic signs. Pedestrian Signs. Historic Signs. Lets make walking enjoyable, fun, educational, safe. For residents of the inner city and for visitors. Unless we walk the river and explore our little visited underpasses and neglected shortcuts the whole downtown is going to suffer and there will be mass avoidance of the downtown. So how will the small storefront survive? A plan is what the BID should be concentrating on.

4. I would like to see allocations go directly to groups who have ideas for events and for general improvements.

4. I would like to see the BID do something business specific each year such as finance a storefront that is specifically oriented toward local residents of this area and the immediate surrounding districts. We need to encourage local resident use of the downtown. Make the local resident welcome. Maybe we have a grant set up for a local enterprising business person with a good, sustainable storefront idea.

5. Here is an ad currently running in the JT: "310 5th Street: Quiet 2 rm, 1st flr office. Heat, new carpet, web internet. Near monument square, \$400, 633-3730. I would like to see an independent administrator in an independent workspace with an independent point of view working for all downtown property and business owners. Someone who is already here. Someone who is knowledgeable about downtown. I can think of a few people who would be good.

6. *Why do downtown storefronts close? Why do downtown storefronts open? What are the existing downtown organizations? Neighbors? This is the purview of a relevant BID. Also within the purview of a relevant BID would be positions on such downtown developments as moving the library, building a huge jail, tearing down historic buildings, greening issues, traffic issues, etc. etc. This falls within 'developing the district'. Last year when I raised such issues at the public meeting I was told such issues were, "not within the purview of the BID". Why not?? Says who??*

Thank you, Mayor Becker, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Remington

BID taxpayer

cc: Finance Committee members (Attn. David Brown please distribute, thank you)

Keith Fair, Alderperson

Chris Flynn

Wayne Klingman

Jim Spodick