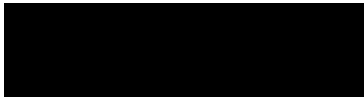




Executive Department
400 South Vine Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801

February 09, 2021



Response - FOIA Request 2021-F-082

Dear Requester,

This message is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated February 03, 2021. The City of Urbana received your request on February 03, 2021, and designated it as FOIA request number 2021-F-082.

You requested:

I would like any and all records related to the "negotiation" or "discussions" that Sacks and Wu have undertaken with the developers of this project. These records likely exist in the form of email correspondence.

The City has searched and does not have records responsive to your request. The City does not have any records of communications between the developers of the project you describe and Council Members Sacks or Wu.

If you believe any records you are seeking have been wrongfully withheld or redacted, you are entitled to a review of this decision by the Public Access Counselor of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. To file a "request for review," you may write to the Public Access Bureau at 500 S. Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, or you may phone 877-299-FOIA (877-299-3642). Any person denied access to inspect or copy any public record also may file suit for injunctive or declaratory relief, in accordance with 5 ILCS 140/11.

Sincerely,
Ross McNeil
Executive Department



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date: Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 12:54 PM

Subject: [REDACTED]

To: CityClerk@urbanailinois.us <CityClerk@urbanailinois.us>

[REDACTED]

I am requesting the following records:

Within the past week, Council member Erik Sacks issued the following public statement:

"Another recent topic has been a proposed development on the 600 block of S. Lincoln Ave (directly across from the Alumni Center) and the adjoining properties on W California and W Oregon. The developer plans to remove existing buildings and replace them with a complex of five apartment buildings. I believe that there are more than a few people in West Urbana who would prefer to see the old single-family homes on some of these properties remain. However, the properties have long been zoned medium density R4 and University Residential R7, which gives the developer considerable flexibility to construct medium density apartments without further approval from Council. From conversations I have had with others, I believe that the current zoning was the result of a compromise made back in the 1990s. This highlights the great importance of the new Comprehensive Plan and the resulting zoning that will be developed during the next few years—we must get this right if we wish to avoid the destruction of West Urbana's architectural character. However, for the current proposed apartments, the developer is seeking zoning approval from Council for Planned Unit Developments (PUDs). According to the City's website on PUDs, "In exchange for public amenities, developers are granted flexibility in applying the typical zoning and development regulations." Thus, there is opportunity for some negotiation between the City and the developer. To this end and based on feedback I have received from the community, I and Councilperson Maryalice Wu have been working with City staff to request from the developer improvements to the proposed development. These discussions are ongoing."

I would like any and all records related to the "negotiation" or "discussions" that Sacks and Wu have undertaken with the developers of this project. These records likely exist in the form of email correspondence.

[REDACTED]