

**Subject** : Letter to Woodridge  
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**Linked to**: Sylvia Mclvor  
**From** : "Sylvia Mclvor"  
**To** : <[villageboard@vil.woodridge.il.us](mailto:villageboard@vil.woodridge.il.us)>

To Mayor Murphy and the Woodridge Village Trustees,

Six years ago, days after 9-11, the Woodridge Village Board approved the rezoning and development of the parcel of land on the east side of Woodward, between Boughton and 83<sup>rd</sup> Street. Six plus years later, that area is still under construction. The latest retail addition is an ACE Hardware, located adjacent to the backyards of homes built over 25 years ago. Those residents who built or moved into those homes trusted Woodridge's own Master Plan with respect to that land -- that Farmingdale Village would be completed and single family homes would be built on what land remained undeveloped.

However, Mayor Murphy was determined to see his (and Gallagher & Henry's) agenda become a reality. After many meetings and his own Plan Commission's UNANIMOUS DISAPPROVAL of this rezoning plan, he sat on the stage, listening with deaf ears to hours and days of testimony from residents (many from Woodridge) who still showed up to the meetings, their hearts heavy because of what had occurred in New York City. Mayor Murphy gave his two-minute speech on why he wanted this approved and all but one Trustee supported his agenda. I know this all too well because I attended every single meeting and submitted over 1200 (TWELVE HUNDRED) petitions AGAINST this rezoning effort -- many of the petitions signed by Woodridge residents. That moment, when he completely disregarded what EVERONE else opposed (except the developer, there was not a single supporter in the audience), is still crystal clear in my memory. It is what drove me to run for Alderman in Darien -- I vowed I would never do such a disservice to the residents who put their trust in me.

I urge every one of you to wait until after the sun is down and take a drive along the south-end of Ailsworth Drive. Take Havens to Stewert but be careful -- as you drive toward Ailsworth the blinding lights from ACE and the three-story parking light towers (yes, they loom well above any residence and retail structure except those three, new condo towers located nowhere near the parking lot) might distract you from your task. After your retinas recover, park your car between the white brick house at Stewert and Ailsworth and the house just south of it. Look into the yards of those homes -- they are lit up like the Fourth of July, all night long, every night of the week. Would you ever do this to Woodridge residents? How would you feel if that was YOUR backyard? Those lights blast through those residents' windows, many of which are BEDROOM windows. What have you done to their quality of life? What have you done to the value of their homes? This development has completely changed the character of this community, in a NEGATIVE way.

While it is too late to stop this development, it is not too late to at least make it less intrusive. Those parking lot lights do not need to be three stories tall. The lights on the east side of ACE need to be removed or the developer needs to build a wall tall enough to keep the lighting sustained to their property. Those homeowners abutting that property should not suffer so Woodridge can profit. I urge you now to do the RIGHT thing and fix this mess as soon as possible.

To his credit, Eric Alwin has been looking into this since April (nearly 7 months). However, except for a few small shields installed three stories up, the situation remains intolerable. At least one resident is preparing for legal action. While you may not have been part of the decision-making process which created this situation, you have an opportunity to be part of the solution.

Thank you,

Sylvia Mclvor  
Alderman, Ward 6  
City of Darien