



June 4, 2007

Ald. Tony Zielinski
(414) 286-3769

Last-Minute Maneuver Could Kill Bay View Development, Alderman Says

When Ald. Tony Zielinski sponsored supportive legislation in late 2006 paving the way for Vetter-Denk Architecture to build the five-story Mod Lofts project near S. Kinnickinnic and W. Lincoln Aves., it was solely on the premise that no taxpayer dollars would be used and that public parking spaces would not be lost.

“It was during a public meeting and through conversations with my constituents that it was made clear that as long as the parking spaces could be preserved and no public money was involved, the residents would support the project, and I wholeheartedly agreed,” the alderman said.

Fast forward to the present.

After receiving all necessary city approvals to move forward with construction, Vetter-Denk has issued a last-minute demand that either city money be used to help pay for the creation of the parking spaces or that the amount of parking spaces be reduced, Ald. Zielinski said.

“This is a deal breaker on this project for me,” he said. “Your word is your bond, and I’m not able to support something that’s not acceptable to the neighborhood and to my constituents.”

The \$7 million Mod Lofts project would create a mixed-use building with more than 50 dwelling units, a parking structure and some retail space at 2254 S. Allis St. The site is currently a city-owned parking lot with more than 50 spaces. Ironically Ald. Zielinski was the catalyst for the project – putting forth a request for proposals for the site and introducing legislation to move the Mod Lofts project forward.

Ald. Zielinski said he won’t sponsor or support any move at the Council level to provide a city subsidy to Vetter-Denk or to reduce the parking capacity for Mod Lofts.