



March 9, 2022

To the Glen Ellyn Board of Trustees,

I'd like to thank you for your diligent effort in acquiring the property of the former Budgetel Motel on Roosevelt Road. I also commend your efforts to explore the opportunity for accessible, affordable, and supportive (i.e. attainable) housing at this site.

There is a great need for housing in our community for seniors, folks with special needs, and lower-middle income families. While the village technically meets its quota for affordable housing, this isn't sufficient to the need, nor does it guarantee the supportive services that many of our residents need. As it is, high functioning young adults with special needs are forced to live with their parents; seniors have to leave town because they can't afford the taxes on their homes; and many of the teachers, police officers, nurses, and retail workers that already serve this town are unable to live here.

I recognize that there is a growing demand for this property to be used for retail purposes, in the hopes of reducing local tax burdens. As I understand it, the consultants hired by the Village feel that retail opportunities are limited, most notably by the 125 or so feet of frontage on Roosevelt Road. We could put in a small store, maybe two, though I don't believe this would significantly impact tax revenue. Conversely, attainable housing will have an enormously positive impact on those who would occupy the 40-60 or so proposed units, and their families. All of this being said, I also recognize that this does not need to be a zero sum game; perhaps there are opportunities for retail on Roosevelt Road, combined with attainable housing on Taft Avenue. Perhaps we can yet find a win-win solution.

While I won't speak for my entire congregation, I know that there is a groundswell of support for attainable housing at this site at our church.

Much has been said about maximizing the value of this property; but what is it that we truly "value"? Do we really value tax income more than human flourishing? Do we really value profits more than people?

Thank you, again, for all that you do.

Rev. Seth Ethan Carey
Senior Minister, FCCGE