

Blackham, Kathleen

From: Julie Searcy <jsearcy@butler.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 12:51 PM
To: Blackham, Kathleen
Subject: Letter to appeal development on 34th and Illinois

Dear Kathleen Blackham,

I am writing as a resident and stakeholder in the neighborhood surrounding the corner of 34th Street and Illinois Street to respectfully request that the City reconsider the zoning decision associated with **Case T2042-46204 / 2D26-CMP 821**.

Our neighborhood has experienced decades of disinvestment. Rather than creating more opportunities for neighborhood-serving businesses, this zoning change from commercial to residential represents another lost opportunity to invest in the long-term vitality of our community.

While we recognize that Indianapolis needs additional housing, our neighborhood also needs places where residents can access essential goods and services close to home. We have far too few commercial spaces that could support locally owned businesses, restaurants, health services, childcare, or a neighborhood grocery store. Once commercially zoned land is converted to residential use, those opportunities may be lost for generations. My family and I moved here four years ago. My husband teaches at local IPS school 60 and we have four children. My kids immediately noticed the disinvestment in our neighborhood asking me why there were parks and fun neighborhood shops in other parts of the city (Illinois and 54th for example) close by but not in our neighborhood. I would dearly love for our neighborhood to be a place that they can walk or bike to stores like other neighborhoods in the city. My

We respectfully ask the City to reconsider this zoning decision and instead pursue a mixed-use zoning designation that would allow for residential development while preserving ground-floor commercial space. Mixed-use development would better serve both current residents and future growth by creating opportunities for neighborhood businesses, increasing walkability, supporting economic development, and improving access to everyday necessities.

As residents, we want to see investment in our community—but investment that reflects a long-term vision for a thriving neighborhood. We believe that thoughtful mixed-use development would better align with the City's stated goals of equitable development, neighborhood revitalization, and supporting local businesses.

I respectfully ask that you support efforts to revisit the zoning decision for Case T2042-46204 and advocate for a mixed-use development that meets both the housing and commercial needs of our neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the residents of Indianapolis. I appreciate your consideration and hope you will stand with our neighborhood in supporting development that creates a stronger, more vibrant community.

Sincerely,

Julie Searcy

Julie Johnson Searcy, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of History, Anthropology and Classics

Director of Public Health program

Affiliate Faculty in Race Gender and Sexuality Studies and Science Technology and Environmental Studies

Butler University

Pronouns: she/her

Check out [Credentialing Care: COVID-19 and the Bureaucratization of Doulas](#)