

# Planners: no to Inkster rezoning bid

By Jackie Klein  
staff writer

**'The requested rezoning . . . may negatively affect the ability of our city to implement or follow the master plan for the area, which is single family residential.'**

Residents of Southfield and Farmington Hills won the first round of a land-use battle against rezoning the burgeoning Inkster-11 Mile area for apartments.

The Southfield Planning Commission recommended denial of a bid to rezone the 50-acre tract for mid-rise apartments.

Homeowners of both cities turned out in full force at a meeting Feb. 25 to protest the Occidental Development Ltd.'s proposal to rezone the single-family residential property. It's on the east side of Inkster Road between 10 and 11 Mile.

If rezoned for a medium-rise apartment project (up to six stories), the site could have up to 1,087 dwelling units. Developers, who have an

option to buy the land owned by the Southfield School Board, say they plan three-story apartments with 792 units.

The recommendation of the planning commission will go to the city council for final action.

THE PLANNING department, as well as the planning commission, turned thumbs down to the rezoning request because the 50-acre site abuts single-family homes, low-rise apartments and townhouses - and doesn't conform to the 1988 future land use plan.

That plan recommends the site be used for parks and the surrounding areas developed with low-rise housing and a cemetery. The school board property isn't served by a sanitary sewer system.

Petitioners opposing the apartment

project were submitted by the Farmington Hills Planning Commission as well as residents of Farmington Hills and Southfield.

"The requested rezoning, if approved, may have a negative impact on land uses along Inkster Road," said Philip Arnold, chairman of the Farmington Hills Planning Commission.

"It may negatively affect the ability of our city to implement or follow the master plan for the area which is single family residential."

TWO-LANE Inkster Road isn't equipped to handle the traffic that new apartment occupants would add, said Barbara Komp of Farmington Hills. Traffic on Inkster is already increasing because of new office developments on 11 Mile, she said.

"There is so little wooded property left in Southfield," she said. "All

the apartment and office buildings are causing the city to lose its aesthetic value."

Other residents of Acorn Valley subdivision, in Farmington Hills bordering Southfield, object to the proposed zoning change because of a potential decrease in property values in their wooded area and the influx of traffic.

Residents of Cumberland condominiums in Southfield, south of the 50-acre site, objected to the proposed apartment complex.

Some said when they bought their units in 1978, they believed the site would be used for a school or for single-family homes.

In a letter to the planning commission, Cumberland residents said, "If you allow Occidental this rezoning by political or any other method, it would constitute a breach of faith by the city to Cumberland co-owners."

"Consider 1,000 additional cars on

these roads already unable to handle the present flow of traffic. Utilities are already overburdened."

SUMMING IT UP was a petition from Farmington Hills residents, which said, "Occidental Development is proposing to erect a ridiculous multistory apartment right in the middle of one of Southfield's few remaining prime, wooded residential areas."

"A three-story apartment alone would be an eyesore. Add the required surrounding parking lot and the overflow of cars and you've got a real ugly mess."

"The sharp increase in population density is going to bring more traffic to the surrounding roads than they can handle as well as a rise in the local crime rate. And what's to prevent someone from building a six-story apartment in the rezoned area at some later date?"

## Aftermath Aides failed Reagan: lawmaker

By Rich Parberg  
staff writer

"Nobody doubts that I'm right" about immunity, he said. "It's just a question of when."

ANOTHER U.S. representative, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, was not as charitable to the president. He said the Tower report characterized the Iran affair as "decision by chaos."

"I think his aides let him down, but he let down America by his policies," said Levin. "What's wrong is not just his management style."

What's wrong is his basic decision-making.

"You can't just put the blame on aides. He failed to follow carefully the implementation of his policies." Levin said the president would be harmed by the controversy but said he could regain some of his effectiveness if he accepts responsibility for the mistakes.

"He needs to say he was very wrong in his policies. He needs to say, 'I let down the nation.'"

President Reagan's aides "let him down" by encouraging a "gamble not worth taking" to free hostages, according to U.S. Rep. William Broomfield.

Broomfield comments came in the wake of the Tower Commission report highly critical of the president's inattention to a possibly illegal arms sale to Iran in exchange for hostages.

Broomfield, R-Birmingham, placed much of the blame on Reagan's chief of staff, Donald Regan. Broomfield, whose congressional district includes the Farmington area, predicted that Regan would step down. He was replaced by Howard Baker.

Broomfield said that the president was under "immense pressure" from the families of hostages in the Middle East. That, coupled with poor advice from his aides, led to poor decisions, said Broomfield.

"The fact is that his subordinates let him down," he said. "They gambled and lost. It was a gamble not worth taking."

BROOMFIELD, A member of the House select committee investigating the arms sale, said he was "impressively" with the Tower report. "It should expedite our proceedings," he said.

"I think now the important thing is to start moving ahead. He is still our president for the next two years. We've got to get this investigation behind us."

"The only thing that concerns me is a prolonged investigation. I don't want any foot dragging."

Broomfield, ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, repeated his contention that selective immunity should be granted to quickly uncover the complete story.



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