

Testimony by Peter McMullen about the expansion of Chapter 17 and 18

May 7, 2007

Hello, my name is Peter McMullen and I am president of the Cambridge Woods Neighborhood Association which is the neighborhood west of UWM and Oakland Avenue. I would like to thank the committee members for the opportunity to provide comments today with regards to the review of Chapters 17 and 18. My comments will be limited to the review of Chapter 17. I will not use my time to list the many incidents that have occurred in our neighborhood that warrant the expansion of Chapter 17. I will share the one event that personally influenced me to get involved in issues concerning our neighborhood. The incident involved the home of a fireman and a teacher living in our neighborhood. The resident attempted to stop three individuals who left a nearby party and were using their picket fence for a bathroom. The individuals took issue with this request and busted up his fence and assaulted the resident causing him to go to the hospital. A similar incident happened this past fall, but thankfully only property damage was done to the home. The reason these types of incidents occur is directly related to the relationship with the university.

The Chapter 17 Policy Statement states that the university has a responsibility to identify basic standards of nonacademic conduct necessary to protect the community¹I encourage and challenge your committee to come up with real changes to the expansion of student conduct codes to include the application to off campus areas. My recommendation would be to include the surrounding areas of campus property in a 1 to 2 mile radius. The surrounding area houses about 5,000 students and UWM employs both an Off-Campus Housing and a Neighborhood Relations staff. The institutional connection between the immediate campus and the surrounding area is evident. Policy needs to reflect this reality.

I would like to conclude by thanking UWM Administration for initiating this change internally and their support for the expansion of Chapter 17 to include off-campus areas. Thank you.