

JPNA



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

www.jpna.net

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association

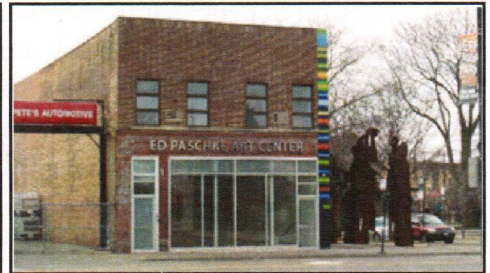
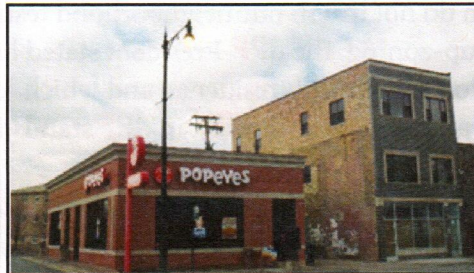
Alderman Arena's Smear Campaign by Bob Bank

Alderman John Arena maligns, denigrates and insults anyone or any group that does not agree with him 100 per cent. The JPNA has taken the brunt of his attacks. Ald. Arena continues to slander the JPNA, as a group, saying we're "Against everything, and for nothing", but the JPNA encourages reasonable development within the current zoning, which generously allows for up to 4-stories in most cases.

JPNA is pro-development within the current zoning. When the neighborhood met with C. Benet Haller, of the City's Planning Department in 2009, at the unveiling of the "Jefferson Park/Milwaukee Corridor Study", Mr. Haller acknowledged that towering buildings were not welcome in Jefferson Park, rather a "Commuter Town Center", a term Mr. Haller introduced, was the desired template. Mr. Haller described the "Commuter Town Center" term as a community of buildings no more than 4-stories in height. John Arena, merely the aspiring candidate at the time was there. John Arena heard with his own ears, the views from the approximately 125 residents in attendance; so why is he forcing these undesirable projects on his constituents?

When it comes to obscene projects, like the proposed (now 16-story) parking garage and apartment complex, yes, the JPNA along with the majority of residents in the area are against such projects. In 2005, we were against the twin 7-story condos going up on the 5201 block of W. Lawrence Ave., across the alley from single family bungalows. More than 300 neighbors came to the Copernicus Center to voice their displeasure; Alderman Levar listened to his constituents, and the project was dead that very night.

The JPNA was not against the Parkway Bank, nor the neighboring commercial building that houses Popeye's Restaurant on Milwaukee near Higgins Ave. These buildings replaced a drive-up bank facility and a transmission repair shop. We were not against the renovation and transformation of the Knobe Stationery Store, into the Ed Paschke Art Center, on Higgins near Long Ave., nor were we against the rehab and addition of a 3rd floor, on an old 2-story building on Milwaukee Avenue, across from the C.T.A. Transportation Center.



(From left to right: Parkway Bank, Popeye's and the rehabbed now 3-story Building, Ed Paschke Art Center.)

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(Below: The old Firehouse at Lipps and Ainslie Avenues; a possible playhouse theatre and coffee shop?)



The JPNA has also hosted meetings asking residents what kind of businesses they would like to see in the area. The JPNA has even signed a letter in support of turning the old firehouse at Lipps and Ainslie Avenues, into a playhouse theatre. The JPNA also asked the then newly elected Alderman, John Arena, to stop Veterans Square owner, Jimmy Kozonis, from using the gravel lots he created by tearing so many commercial buildings down, as illegal parking lots. The City code requires drainage, lighting, landscaping and fencing for surface parking lots, all items ignored by Kozonis and Alderman Arena. As a matter of fact, instead of holding Kozonis' feet to the fire, Ald. Arena recently rewarded Kozonis with 20,000sq. feet of land at Lawrence and Laramie Avenues, land the City paid \$1.46 million dollars for, to be sold to Kozonis for only \$1.00! How can Alderman Arena justify selling all that land for only \$1.00 when the City's in a financial crisis. Alderman Arena should not be allowed to champion such a deal to the Kozonis family, which has donated thousands of dollars to his campaign.

Don't Be Fooled! By Bob Bank

The **JPNA** is your real neighborhood association, not a **Fake** organization that was created by Alderman Arena's surrogates, to give the Alderman cover and agree with his every whim.

If there was any doubt that **JPF** President, Ryan Richter was in Alderman Arena's pocket, that doubt was put to rest at the March 16, 2017, Chicago Plan Commission hearing. **JPF** President, Ryan Richter, was seen whispering with the Alderman's SEIU and Chicago Housing Initiative operatives, trading papers, borrowing a pen from one of them to fill out his support for the up-zoning, and finally when the Commission Chair, addressed the audience, and stated: "**The following people are not testifying, but wanted their names on record in support of the proposed project**", and one of those name FOR the up-zoning of the 7-story project at 5150 N. Northwest Highway project was none other than, **JPF President, Ryan Richter**, it couldn't be any more clear who **JPF** answers to. This in spite of the fact that "officially" the **JPF** does not take a stand on zoning issues!

The Chair also read the names of those against too, a long list to be sure. Later citizens were allowed to testify. Dozens, including myself, testified **AGAINST** the proposed up-zoning at 5150 N. Northwest Highway, and at the end, a handful of people, most of whom do not live in our neighborhood testified **FOR** the proposal.

JPNA members spoke **AGAINST** the up-zoning, the **JPF** President stated he was **FOR** it.

So know which neighborhood association stands with residents, and which Jeff Park org is the **Fake**.

JPNA is the real deal. And by now we all know what the "**F**" in **JPF** stands for.

Remember, an "**A**" is better than an "**F**".

The rubber stamp Plan Commission approved the proposal to go on to the Committee on Zoning, however the Committee on Zoning has twice now postponed the 5150 N. Northwest Hwy. project from being added to the agenda. But now it is back on the Agenda at City Hall, 2nd Floor, at **2:00pm, May 22, 2017. Please attend!**

Follow us on FB (FaceBook) and we will keep you updated. You can find us on FB under Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association, or visit our website at www.jpna.net.

LEND A HAND, DONATE TO "Northwest Side Unite", to help fight the 7-story CHA subsidized housing project!

A group of residents have started Northwest Unite, in order to fight the corrupt zoning change put forth by Ald. John Arena. NWside Unite has hired an attorney, and has held several rallies and a fundraiser. NW Unite has the support of several neighborhood organizations and chambers of commerce. NWside Unite has shown some real moxie, and has the alderman and this project back on their heels; now is not the time to let up on the gas. Please donate to this very important cause.

About 5150 N. Northwest Hwy.

A group of investors were eager to invest in our community. They paid over \$6,000,000 to purchase the property at 5150 N. Northwest Hwy., and borrowed over \$1,000,000 for engineering plans, and the necessary building permits. The property was in a M1-1 designated district, which allows for a storage facility. Sometime later unbeknownst to them, Alderman Arena had the zoning changed to B1-1, which does NOT allow for a storage facility. Alderman Arena did not make any attempt to contact the building owners, nor the community about the zoning change, but according to the lawsuit, Ald. Arena did contact the Building Department, to have the building permits rescinded. The investors of the storage facility made several attempts to reach the Alderman, but every time the Alderman was "unavailable." What Alderman Arena didn't count on, was that the investors would sue and win a settlement agreement.

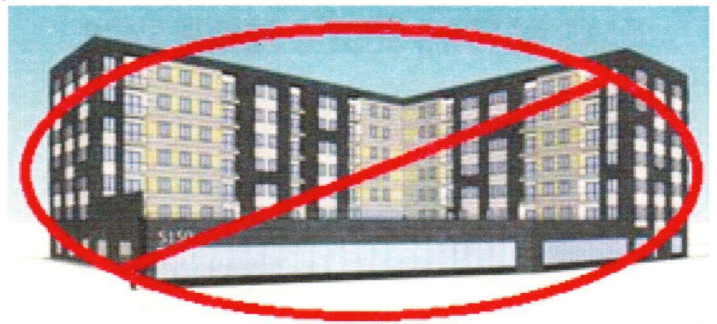
The zoning change is being used as compensation in the settlement to the investors, for Alderman Arena's underhanded wrongdoing. Also in the settlement agreement that Ald. Arena signed, was his promise to support the zoning change, which is in direct contradiction to his Aldermanic duties to represent the wishes of his constituents.

Zoning should not be used as compensation for an alderman's wrongdoing. Zoning is thoughtful and deliberate process, with the health and welfare of the community in mind. The City of Chicago's Zoning Ordinance, under "Purpose and Intent (Section 17-1-500) lists over a dozen reasons for the Zoning Code, none of them say, "to be used as compensation for an Alderman's wrongdoing."

Donations can be sent to:

Northwest Side Unite
6348 N Milwaukee Ave
Chicago, IL 60646

email: nwsideunite@gmail.com
website: <http://www.nwsideunite.org/>



Sgt. Alvarez SAYS,

**"LOCK YOUR CAR, HOUSE, GARAGE DOORS
AND WINDOWS ALL THE TIME, EVERY TIME!"**

Look Out for Fake Phone Calls

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), does not contact people by phone, only by U.S. Mail, often certified. The police office gets calls each year from seniors who have received calls from crooks pretending to be IRS agents. These scammers will use fake phone numbers to make it appear the government is calling. No matter how much they insist, do not believe them. The fraudsters try to convince the people they call, that they owe the IRS tax money and demand immediate payment, often with a pre-paid debit card, a gift card or a wire transfer. Another variation of the tax scam is the "bogus student tax", which does not exist.

Whenever one questions the fake IRS agent, the caller threatens to have them arrested. The IRS NEVER calls to collect money for any reason. The IRS uses mail and certified mail only to contact tax payers. The crooks also send fake e-mails stating you have a refund coming and requesting your credit card or debit card number or banking information for direct deposit. Do not give this information over the computer. Contact TIGTA at 1-800-366-4484 to report the scam attempt, or fill out an "IRS Impersonation Scam" online form at TIGTA.gov.

If you suspect any crime, call 911. For more information, call the CAPS staff and Sgt. Alvarez at 1-312-742-4521

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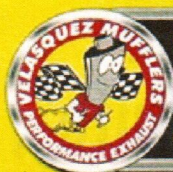
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Membership IS Important!

The Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association has been in existence since the year 2001. We have tried to be a positive influence in the community. As different issues arise, the JPNA takes a stance which, we hope, is always in the best interest of its residents. And, that's where you come in. We need your input, thoughts and concerns. We would like you to be part of our decision-making process. We encourage your ideas which would improve the lifestyle in and around our neighborhood. We would love to be able to count you as our member. Joining is easy and, hopefully, within your budget. We now have a 2-year membership at a \$5.00 saving, and we also have a reduced senior (50+) membership. "WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?" you may ask. Well, the next time the JPNA takes a stance on an important issue, or sponsors a worthwhile event, YOUR voice was being represented and, I hope, that feels great!

Eva Skowronski

JPNA Board member

Join JPNA today!

Membership: 1 year \$15.00 per person, seniors (age 50+) \$10.00 per person

2 year \$25.00 per person, seniors (age 50+) \$15.00 per person

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to:

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association (JPNA) • P.O. Box 30072 • Chicago, IL. 60630-0072

JPNA Meetings are held the last Wed. of the Month, at the Congregational Church of Jefferson Park basement, 5320 W. Giddings, at 7:00pm (not December)

JPNA Officers: President, Bob Bank; Vice President, Brian Wardman; Secretary, Peter Insley; Treasurer and past President, Ed Irsch

JPNA Board Members: Eva Skowronski, Lotty Blumenthal, Ron Ernst, Colleen Murphy,

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