July 28, 2015

To: Board of Trustees, Village of Oak Park
From: John Lynch, Executive Director
Re: Special Use Permit Request - Fenwick High School

Staff of the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation (OPEDC) met recently with Mr. Dennis Marani, as agent for Fenwick High School (Fenwick) in its application for special use permit to authorize construction of an accessory parking lot for vehicles and buses at 516, 520, and 544 Madison Street. Mr. Marani presented details of the application as well as the school's long-term vision for the property.

Regarding the special use request, OPEDC concurs with the recommendations of Village staff's Project Review Team as presented in its report to the Zoning Board of Appeals dated July 22, 2015.

In support of Fenwick's application, we note the importance of the school's long-term plan as it pertains to the overarching development vision for Madison Street. With its high profile and esteemed reputation, Fenwick High School is a critical institutional anchor on the corridor. Its faculty and student population are also an important demand driver for surrounding commercial businesses. We believe that the school's interest in increasing its Madison Street presence is in alignment with the development direction we are pursuing for Madison Street and will be seen by the development community as a sign of future potential.

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