

## Committee restored their faith in city

**Evanston/** My wife and I moved our family to Evanston a little more than a year ago. We left what many consider to be one of the North Shore's most exclusive suburbs to be a part of this community, because we saw Evanston as a much more inclusive environment — a welcoming place where everyone is not the same, and every voice is heard. Equally.

After sitting through practically every meeting of the Plan Commission during the Mather LifeWays' presentations, I seriously wondered if we had made a mistake.

Clearly, the "big business" desires of Mather LifeWays were far more important than the "repetitive" concerns of neighbors who were only trying to protect their homes, their families and the city they all love. The commission ignored the neighbor's requests to consider smaller, less dense buildings next to a historic single-family neighborhood.

When asked to prove their economic need for building a pair of 10-story monoliths, Mather said no. The commission simply looked the other way and voted unanimously to recommend in favor of all 17 zoning variances Mather had requested. They questioned nothing.

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The meeting of the Planning and Development Committee of the City Council on Jan. 9 restored my faith in Evanston and our city's leadership. Rational, intelligent people listened carefully to both sides of the issues. Each aldermen seemed open-minded, receptive and extremely well-informed. Above all, they were fair, nonjudgmental and welcoming.

Now that's the Evanston we came here for. Thank you for assuring us we have indeed made the right move.

**Mike Meyers**