Riverfront Development Commission Meeting

Public Comment Sheet

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Alton City Council	Chambers		
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Date:	June 25, 20024	lime: _	5:00 PM
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November 3, 2022

The Honorable Mayor David Goins Alton City Council City of Alton 101 E. Third Street Alton, IL 62002

Dear Mayor Goins and Alton City Council Members:

Please accept this letter expressing concerns from Alton Forward, regarding the City of Alton's proposed flood wall construction along Sugar Alley from Williams Street to Piasa Street.

Alton Forward, a 501(c)(3) non-profit with the mission of catalyzing transformational change and increasing livability in the Greater Alton Area, believes that this project is premature and that the timing is not compatible with the ongoing US Army Corps of Engineer's floodplain study of the Alton Riverfront. The Corps analysis is taking a more holistic approach to addressing flooding along the entire riverfront and will develop sustainable recommendations to mitigate the flooding hazards in downtown Alton. Once complete, the study will allow for better-informed decisions based upon data as to how best to flood protect and address flooding issues in this portion of downtown Alton.

A permanently constructed floodwall, while giving an appearance of protection, may not eliminate the entire source of the flooding. Local drainage, basement infiltration, and wall under-seepage will still exist and impact the structures along Third Street. Additionally, if constructed, the wall could cause unintentional flooding for others upstream and downstream of the wall.

Furthermore, the anticipated flood wall does not satisfy requirements under the National Flood Insurance Program for bringing substantially damaged or improved structures into compliance with the NFIP. This project is an expensive undertaking and will still require human intervention for closures and evacuation.

On a purely aesthetic and land use perspective, the floodwall – in addition to Landmarks Boulevard and the railroad track - will provide an additional barrier between downtown Alton and the economic and tourism opportunities of the riverfront. It will also disrupt and disconnect businesses located along Third Street from the much-needed parking lot and access along W. Broadway.

It is our hope that you will take these items into consideration and delay this project until the Army Corps of Engineers' Study is complete, and a holistic approach may be undertaken that includes a more robust stakeholder outreach for input before this project moves forward.

With gratitude,

Jennifer C. Doody Jennifer Doody, P.E.

Community Engagement & Development Director

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