

June 19 2023

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a police dock on the Peninsular Park waterfront. I believe that this project would pose a serious safety hazard to the community and would also lead to a decrease in property values.

First, I am concerned about the potential for accidents and injuries at the dock within a swimming area. The dock would be used by police boats, which in emergency situations could be traveling at high rates of speed. There is a risk that these boats could collide with people in the water, or that they could lose control and crash into the shore. In addition, a dock could attract alligators and other dangerous wildlife that could provide a hazard to nearby swimmers. Finally, increased road traffic on Peninsular Drive from police activity would be a hazard to the residents, particularly children who may be playing in the neighborhood. It should be noted there are no sidewalks on this street, so it is common for people to walk along the side of the road.

Second, I believe that the construction of the dock would lead to a decrease in property values in the area. The dock would be an eyesore, and it would make the waterfront less safe and inviting. Peninsular Park currently provides a beautiful uninterrupted view of Lake Conway that residents have enjoyed for decades. This proposed dock would dramatically change the character of the park area and disrupt the peaceful nature of the area. In addition, the dock would likely increase noise levels in the area, which would make it less desirable for residents.

I do not feel the City or the Police Department have sufficiently demonstrated the need for such a project to be placed here that would negatively impact so many residents. More effort should be expended to utilize other existing city properties to accommodate the needs of the Police before drastically changing an existing area. Available funding should not be the predominant determining factor to create a project of this magnitude, which will no doubt cost the residents of Belle Isle to maintain and upgrade the assets over time.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote against the proposed construction of the police dock at Peninsular Park. I believe that this project would pose a serious safety hazard to the community and would also lead to a decrease in property

values, as well as dramatically change the landscape and waterscape of one of the few waterfront natural parks within Belle Isle.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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