



Following the latest Community Meeting on the proposed ComEd substation at 1111 W. Diversey (Diversey & Seminary), the Wrightwood Neighbors Association board voted unanimously in opposition of ComEd's proposal

Whereas we are absolutely for a reliable infrastructure that would ensure consistent power to our residents & businesses, we also want to ensure that any proposals are the best fit for our community.

In ComEd's own [filings with the state](#), it's indicated "Lincoln Yards (WNA Note: now Foundry Park) will utilize the added capacity at ~62% of the customer build out". Now don't get us wrong, we're also for new development (when appropriate), but taking away prime Transit Oriented Development property in our own neighborhood, property that could be developed for residential or mixed use (which developers have proposed), in order to help ComEd facilitate the electrical needs outside of our community isn't what we believe to be in the best interest of our neighbors and local businesses. TL;DR We believe that ComEd should pursue options with less residential impact.

The WNA board voted on this position in alignment with our local elected officials including Ald. Knudsen, Sen. Feigenholtz, Rep. Williams, and also the newly formed [Diversey Community Coalition](#), which arose in response to this project. We applaud the significant time, and energy, these officials and the DCC have put into this effort thus far.

A few weeks ago, I attended City Council where Ald. Knudsen honored the memory of our own Allan Mellis. Years ago Allan helped design the WNA Long Range Plan for our community that included: "The current commercial zoning of the Perrillo car dealership at Seminary should be changed to either a lower business zone or a residential use. WNA will work with any future developer to make sure a quality project is built." It's with Allan in mind that I send you this, and let's see to it that the site becomes what's best for our neighborhood.

What Next?

- Major vs. Minor. As it stands, the property is zoned in a manner that allows ComEd to build. It's able to do so as the current zoning classifies substations as "Minor" utilities. We certainly agree that a project of this scope could be deemed as a "Major" impact to our community. As such, Ald. Knudsen & Sen. Feigenholtz have put forth requests with their respective legislative bodies for better clarity on what could/should be considered minor vs. major. The City's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) treats the process for development under Major classification with much more scrutiny than Minor. We're still awaiting further detail from the City & State as to when any decision could be rendered on this, and the ZBA has yet to receive formal plans from ComEd in order to kickoff their process.
- Alternative Sites. Ald. Knudsen's office is actively proposing alternative sites outside of our densely populated neighborhood (largely in industrial corridors that would be a more suitable fit for this type of project)
- Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Review. The State's ICC has the most authority over the fate of this proposal. The ICC will be having hearings on this as the project progresses. The DCC has templates on their [website](#) folks can use to send forth public comments, and they'll also update with details on hearings. Every voice added to the record helps the ICC make their decision on this!

We'll keep you updated with any additional information as we have any, and keep an eye out for other ways you can get involved in this process.

As with any matters pertaining to our great neighborhood, we're open to hearing your thoughts. Feel free to respond to this e-mail with your opinions on this. We're also actively working on a new portal on our website to better solicit feedback on items that impact our community, so stay tuned for that as well!.