

My name is Steve Riess, I reside at 17 Thornfield Ln, Hawthorn Woods

I have been a trustee with the Village of Hawthorn Woods since 1999 and am currently serving my fourth term in office. I am also the founding member of a local grass roots land use organization known as ACRE, which was created at the time when N Barrington was considering a similar proposal from Taubman Corporation. Over the course of the next 3 years, the ACRE team and I educated ourselves *and* the public in all aspects regarding super regional malls. This included retail density measurements, sprawl that occurs as a matter of course when these developments are built, traffic, crime..... anything and everything that relates to a development of this size, so I find the comment at an earlier meeting by one of the RPC members that we "simply just don't understand" is both incorrect and frankly, arrogant. I understand it quite well, and it's precisely because of that understanding that I am here tonight speaking against granting the regional framework zoning change.

ACRE, through its negotiations between Hawthorn Woods and North Barrington, was the primary catalyst that helped to form the intergovernmental agreement between the two villages, which was modified slightly a few years later by mutual agreement and stands today. This agreement was praised by the Lake County Board as an excellent example of inter-governmental cooperation, and the Planning, Building & Zoning Committee Chairman was quoted by the Chicago Tribune as saying "We have absolutely no intention of changing the zoning from residential to retail." Yet here we are today.

I applaud the work that the RPC has done so far. The RPC has been the catalyst and driving force between various villages and other government bodies to form agreements of cooperation and mutual interest. These include the work between Old Mill Creek and Wadsworth in 2007, the Rt. 173/I-94 intersection land-use agreement, and numerous other works. Why now would you now seek to do exactly the opposite of the work you're known for? Even your own public brochure, titled INTERCONNECTIONS, states To successfully manage change, regional and local officials must actively work together to make decisions for the benefit of Lake County as a whole. This proposal clearly does not benefit the communities it is surrounded by, does not benefit Lake County, and will only benefit the underlying property owner. This is clearly the opposite of what everyone in Lake County believes the RPC's true calling is. How do you expect any local government authority to EVER trust you again if you act contrary to the existing agreement between two villages?