



July 19, 2016

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara (LWVBN) has maintained an active interest in the use and development of the region's waterfronts in Erie County for many years.

A core value of the League is citizen participation in all parts of government. Therefore, we are examining and monitoring closely those various governmental agencies that own or regulate the Outer Harbor properties, regarding future development on that site. We submitted testimony to the Common Council on May 17, 2016 expressing our concerns about the proposed tower known as Queen City Landing (QCL). Members of the LWVBN commented on the application by QCL to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on May 6, 2016. Our concerns then and now center around both the environmental hazards of the site and its adequate re-use to benefit all of the public.

The decisions by the Buffalo City Council on June 21, 2016 and the Buffalo Planning Board on May 31, 2016 to allow a 23-story residential tower with parking garage failed to consider essential questions: How will this project impact the environmental conditions of the site? What are the long-range financial impacts such a development will have on the City to maintain infrastructure for this project?

The LWVBN applauds creative re-use of the former Freezer Queen building at 975 Fuhrmann Boulevard, the site of the QCL proposal. We urge the developer to revise his proposal into a project, which would result in appropriate and water-based economic activity in the area that benefits all citizens in Western New York.

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