

Remarks for Coffee With the Council
Saturday, April 16, 2005

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I have four simple questions.

First please drive down Jefferson Avenue and ask yourself:

If this destruction were the result of a TORNADO on Wednesday, what word would describe it? [Repeat]

I would use the word DISASTER, and you might too.

Second question: What role did the Village of Downers Grove play in this disaster?

It is said that those trees were on PRIVATE PROPERTY and the Village could do nothing to stop it.

I agree that the trees were on private property, just as the scars are now on private property.

But I do not agree that the Village is blameless, because I have been told by two village employees, one in writing, that this destruction was what the Village, specifically Public Works, “wanted”.

I think you will agree that the Village has a lot of moral leverage over developers, because plans require approvals.

Why didn't the Village seek a plan that saved more trees rather than destroyed them, and why didn't the Village encourage the developer to wait until the Village's public hearings and final approvals of the development?

Third question: Where and when were the public notice, discussion, hearings, and formal decisions.

My neighbors and I expected to have the opportunity to review plans and offer comment before the Village made a decision. Obviously this didn't happen. And it is sincerely disappointing.

Fourth and final question: Looking to the future, what can we as citizens and taxpayers expect from our Village, and especially our Council, as this project goes forward?