



FOUNDED IN 1975

Working to Keep Streeterville a Neighborhood

SOAR is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

**SOAR Testimony
150 E. Ontario Street
Chicago Plan Commission Hearing
Thursday, May 15, 2008**

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Good afternoon. My name is Gail Spreen, I am the President of SOAR, the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents (SOAR). I come before you today on behalf of SOAR to request that the project at 150 E. Ontario be required to come up with a better solution to its planned parking.

We would like to thank the developer, Monoco Development, the Alderman's Office and the City Departments for meeting with us to discuss this project. Due to one very significant issue of traffic patterns, garage access and operations, we feel that additional review of the project should be performed prior to approving these plans.

We understand that both Ontario Street and Michigan Avenue are considered 'Pedestrian' Streets but we feel that a curb cut on Ontario Street would be a much better garage access point than having all garage car parkers crossing the extremely busy Michigan Avenue sidewalk. The backup that will occur when vehicles can not get through the Michigan Avenue pedestrian traffic will gravely hinder the traffic flow on the Avenue. SOAR feels that a better design to the building could alleviate this traffic pattern and would be beneficial to both the 150 E. Ontario development as well as Michigan Avenue.

There are several aspects of the development we applaud, those being:

- incorporating green roofs in your design,
- using the wind turbine for power,
- disguising the above ground parking structure by fronting it with office and common area space,
- funding two TCA's in perpetuity to help control traffic congestion.

SOAR works to maintain a safe and walkable community by encouraging wide, well-lit, and landscaped sidewalks in order to create a desirable pedestrian experience. We ask that you revisit your position on this development and look at the effect of this traffic pattern on the area.

Thank you.

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