

February 10, 2009

BELLWOOD

David Pope  
Village President  
Village of Oak Park  
123 Madison St.  
Oak Park, IL 60302

BERKELEY

BERWYN

BROADVIEW

BROOKFIELD

Dear President Pope,

CICERO

The Oak Park Area Convention and Visitors Bureau support the addition of hotel rooms and meeting space in Oak Park, whether through existing or new facilities. The Village has long been underserved by the lack of meeting space for events, meetings and banquet functions. This forces many groups, even those within the Village, to hold their events, meetings and banquets outside of Oak Park.

ELMWOOD PARK

FOREST PARK

FRANKLIN PARK

HILLSIDE

Our limited hotel supply ensures the majority of our visitors are here for the day. On average, overnight guests were estimated to spend \$130.71 in 2007 per person/per day in Oak Park. This was higher than the average per day spent in Illinois and per day in the nation. Tourists were estimated to spend \$166 million in 2007 while in Oak Park, supporting 1,400 jobs and generate \$16 million in state and local taxes. The ability to house more of these travelers would benefit our business community and the tax generation to the Village. Think of the benefit of having 100-200 extra rooms during Wright Plus, or having the availability to serve more overflow from Chicago, or having the availability to host small meetings that could stay here 2-3 nights. Think of the benefit of keeping a visitor here vs. watching them hop on the train back downtown.

MAYWOOD

MELROSE PARK

NORTHLAKE

NORTH RIVERSIDE

OAK PARK

RIVER FOREST

RIVER GROVE

RIVERSIDE

SCHILLER PARK

I would love to discuss this with you further and to talk about how the future of the Visitor Center after the corner of Lake/Forest begins redevelopment. The Center has been a vital focal point for many Visitors since 1971 but there is no current location identified to house it permanently after the development on that corner begins. When considering that corner, please remember this near 40 year old institution that will soon need a new home.

STONE PARK

WESTCHESTER

1118 WESTGATE  
OAK PARK, IL 60301  
PHONE 708.524.7800  
FAX 708.524.7473

Sincerely,



Rich Carollo  
President and CEO

VISITOR CENTER  
158 N. FOREST AVE.  
OAK PARK, IL 60301  
1-888-OAK-PARK  
(1-888-625-7275)