

August 11, 2008

To the Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
Chairman Rep. Lee Kaldor

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Ray Wilkens and my family and I moved to the Grand Forks area in 1976. We lived in the City of Grand Forks for nine months which is the time it took to find a place in the country. We purchased 29 acres of farm land in Rye Township, Section 12 and made it our home. We preferred not to live in the city then and we still feel the same way.

In the past six months the residents of Rye Township have been TOLD many things.

- (a) We have been TOLD that the ET zoning around Grand Forks has been extended another two miles around the City. That zoning includes one half of my land.
- (b) We have been TOLD that the City is going to place its new landfill in Section 13 of Rye Township.
- (c) The Rye Township Board of Supervisors has TOLD the City that the "township" is in agreement with the City's plans.
- (d) A meeting was held for the Rye Township residents to vote "for" or "against" the proposed landfill, but we were TOLD the vote would not count.

Apparently, the ET zoning issue began a couple of year's ago, but did not come to the attention of the residents of Rye Township until last year. For this reason I have been researching the issue to better inform myself. The following are items I found interesting:

1. A quote from the website of GF Herald reporter, Tu-Uyen Tran, on 01/22/08. ***"The city doesn't need the ETZ out to four miles. It doesn't even expect to grow out to the two-mile line in the next several decades. Council member Eliot Glassheim once figured it'd take another 200 years to get to the four-mile line."*** (The north edge of town 32 years ago is still the north edge of town today. I believe that the city implemented that zoning with the landfill in mind.)
2. From the GF Herald dated March 2006, Final Edition, Section A, Page 1 CITY EXPANDS ITS ZONING AUTHORITY Author: Tu-Uyen Tran, Herald Staff Writer: ***"Council members Eliot Glassheim and Bob Brooks, the dissenters on the council on this issue, said they'd rather see the city finish figuring before expanding its zoning authority. "I keep hearing from staff and proponents: 'We're going to pass it tonight and then we're going to refine it,'" Glassheim said. "Huh? " "This is the craziest way to pass an ordinance I've ever heard of," he said."***
3. And one last quote from Tu-Uyen Tran's website, posted 7/21/08. ***"The Grand Forks City Council had some great discussion tonight on the Adventureland amusement park proposed for the south end of town. The long and short of it is the council said "no" when originally it gave every indication of saying "yes" all because some area residents said "not in my backyard." "Why do they have a say and not us?"***

4. I had heard that the Grand Forks County Commissioners were opposed to the ET zoning without a vote from the townships, but the City Council passed the zoning anyway. I contacted chairwoman, Constance Triplett, to confirm this in writing and was invited to the County Commissioner's meeting on August 5th. At that meeting it was agreed 4-0 to send such a letter to this committee's chairman, Lee Kaldor.. This letter might have already been received by you or should be shortly.
5. At a Rye Township meeting held July 29th a motion was made and voted upon that our Board of Supervisors also write a letter opposing the zoning and the landfill. It was to be ready for me to bring here to Bismarck. To date no letter has been received. Apparently, they prefer to back the City over keeping their word and representing our township.
6. The city TOLD us it wants to preserve farmlands, yet it has decided to use the only section in Rye Township that is 100% farmed. The map that is included in your packet shows that there are only 2 homes in the sections surrounding the current landfill. None of the sections in Rye Township surrounding this landfill are farmed. The landfill has ruined the land around it. There are 104 homes within one mile of the proposed new landfill. I am checking with the Department of Health on the environmental ramifications of this on our families and the well water which some of us drink. I realize that the landfill issue is separate from the ET zoning but it's that zoning that is giving the City the power to bully us.

I, for one, do not agree with the things that are happening, and I didn't feel that my neighbors did either. For this reason I decided to take a survey of the residents of Rye Township. During the past several weeks I spoke personally with as many residents as I could find at home. This is what I found:

1. I visited approximately 93 homes and received signatures from 176 residents who are opposed to the ET zoning and the Rye Township landfill. (A list of people that signed is included in your packet. A copy of the actual signatures is included in the Chairman's packet). I spoke with four residents who refused to sign. Of these, one was opposed to the ET zoning but had no problem with the landfill unless it would be in his backyard. (His home is on the opposite end of the township.) One was opposed to both the zoning and the landfill, but said signing it would be a conflict of interest with their job. One family wants to be bought out so they can move. One individual said the City can put the landfill in his backyard, however, his wife and neighbors did not feel the same.
2. There are 120 homes in Rye Township - several parcels of land have more than one home. (A map showing how many homes are in each section is included in your packet.)
 1. 8 are unoccupied
 2. 4 are for sale
 3. 2 are under construction
 4. 1 is being moved in
 5. Several have purchased land with the intent to build a home.

Many residents could not get away from jobs or farming to attend this meeting. I hope this survey will convey their feelings to you. I wonder ... if this same survey were taken in the rest of the surrounding townships, would the results be the same. I think so.

Conclusion: As I was growing up, my father often told me the story about there only being two things in life about which we can do nothing.. Those things are dying and paying taxes. In all other things we should have a say. It's been over 50 years since I was in school, but as I recall, I learned that the Constitution gave us that right to vote or has that changed? Our voice should be heard. Our vote should count, and I urge you to vote to move back the four-mile ET zoning.

I thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond D. Wilkens".

Raymond D. Wilkens

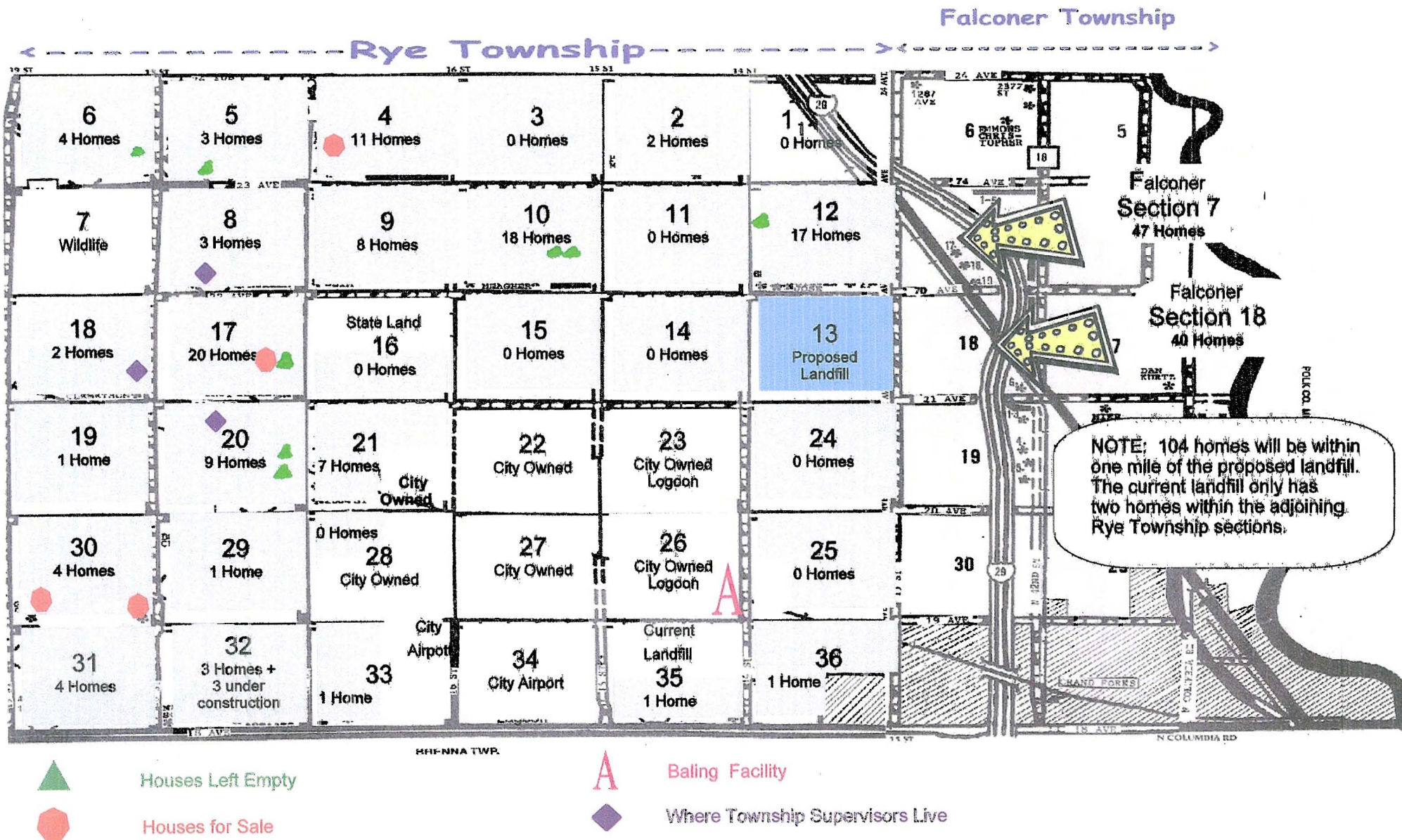
1381 23rd Avenue NE

Grand Forks, ND 58203

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Cell: 701-741-6048

Email: Raymond_Wilkens@hotmail.com



RYE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

As of 08/05/2008 - 01:28:16 PM

	Last Name	First Name	Street Address	Street	176	Property #
1	Weekley	Gregory S	7950	Gateway Drive	2	35630100013001
2	Nowatzki	Neil Emanuel Etal	11296	Jeanne Ave	2	35530100004000
3	Bartey	Lanay B & Mark P	11297	Jeanne Ave	2	35530100003000
4	could not read name		7549	Mulligan Street	1	
5	could not read name		7650	Mulligan Street	1	
6	Hilzendager	Wayne & Kelly	7734	Mulligan Street	2	35530100008000
7	Wockenfuss	Daryl & Terra	11000	N 46th Ave	2	35210300008000
8	Wierima	Dennis L & Geraldine	11133	N 46th Ave	2	35210300006000
9	Erikemoen	Douglas R & Carol A	11166	N 46th Ave	2	35210300004000
10	Clemetson	Chad & Kristi D	11233	N 46th Ave	2	35210300005000
11	Meisel	F. James & Carolyn	11296	N 46th Ave	2	35210300003000
12	Lee	Vincent Jerome	2402	N 69th Street		35360200002000
13	Wysocki	Rachel	7802	N 69th Street	1	35630200007000
14	Tomlin	Karen A & Gary M	7920	N 69th Street	3	35630200005000
15	Wolf	Becky	8080	N 69th Street	1	35630200004000
16	Weil	Rebecca J & Bob	8150	N 69th Street	2	35630200003000
17	Scott	Ryan D & Tammy B.	5502	N 70th Ave	2	35120400002000
18	Klein	Richard M & LI	5702	N 70th Ave	No	35120400003000
19	Jose	Steven W & Sus	5850	N 70th Ave	4	35120400001002
20	Wixo	Arthur	6502	N 70th Ave	1	35120300002000
21	Martin	Lloyd & Ester	8496	N 70th Ave	2	35100400007000
22	Nordling	Ronald D & Connie R	8596	N 70th Ave	2	35100400002000
23	Meagher	Albert E & Shirley L	8796	N 70th Ave	4	35100400001001
24	could not read name	Gary & Ruthann	8974	N 70th Ave	2	
25	Balek	Michael & Kelle Leen	11297	N 78th Ave	2	35530100007000
26	Schwan	Kristi		New Home on Cty 5	1	
27	Noyes	Darrell & Janine	7050	N 84th Street	2	35100400001008
28	Mutcher	Roger W & Larry	7051	N 84th Street	2	35100400005000
29	Larson	Duane	7150	N 84th Street	1	35100400002001
30	Ellefson	Pamela A.	7251	N 84th Street	1	35100400004000
31	Goulet	Jim & Darlene	7051	N 86th Street	2	
32	Goulet	Lawrence G & Joyce A	7151	N 86th Street	2	35100400011000

	Last Name	First Name	Street Address	Street	176	Property #
33	Shuler	Donald Lee & Barbara M	7252	N 86th Street	2	35100400008000
34	Thornton	Jeff & Lisa A	7251	N 86th Street		35100400010000
35	Bohm	Douglas L & Zola Z	8502	N Washington	2	35120100002000
36	Breyer	Gerald F	1801	NE 17th Street		35320400003000
37	Miller	Thomas F	2004	NE 17th Street	1	35210300002000
38	Miller	Donald & Darlene	2006	NE 17th Street	2	
39	Hjelmstad	Kent & Connie	2047	NE 17th Street		35200100003000
40	Vaughan	Wanda D	2055	NE 17th Street		35200100002000
41	Salisbury	Malcolm C G & Bettye M	2071	NE 17th Street		35200100007000
42	Farmer	Arnold L & Barbara J	2075	NE 17th Street	2	35200100008000
43	Ackley	Roger A & Beverly M	2081	NE 17th Street		35200100006000
44	Brown	Gene L & Lavonne M	2087	NE 17th Street	1	35200100004000
45	Goulet	Troy & Angela	2107	NE 17th Street	2	35170400006000
46	Schmidt	Dallas	2111	NE 17th Street	2	35170400003000
47	Myers	James C	2117	NE 17th Street		35170400007000
48	Lyons	Sharon K	2129	NE 17th Street		35170400008000
49	Radke	Linda K & Duane	2135	NE 17th Street		35170400004000
50	Porsboch?	Johnathon?	2141	NE 17th Street	4	35170400009000
51	Anderson	Steven L Jr. & Robbin G	2147	NE 17th Street	2	35170400005000
52	Seim	Arden & Nancy	2202	NE 17th Street	2	35090300002000
53	Wasylow	Robert J ???	2296	NE 17th Street		35090200001000
54	Brown	Frances Jeanett	2312	NE 17th Street	1	35040300004000
55	Feagin	Lucian & Debra	2324	NE 17th Street		35040300002000
56	Scott	Nathan D & Dara J	1814	NE 18th Street	2	35320300001001
57	Cambareri	Richard & JOnel	1901	NE 18th Street		35290300001001
58	Dubuque	Art & Jan	1841	NE 18th Street	2	
59	Dubuque	Dan & Linda	1843	NE 18th Street	2	
60	Clemetson	Jeff & Carrie	2111	NE 18th Street	2	
61	Clemetson	Paul J & Susan E	2328	NE 18th Street	2	35050300002002
62	Lund	Dorothy	1816	NE 19th Street	2	
63	Tandeski	Jerome	1902	NE 19th Street	1	35300300002000
64	Gendreau	Joan M	1902	NE 19th Street		35300300001002

	Last Name	First Name	Street Address	Street	176	Property #
65	Held	Michael E & Orlayne M	2368	NE 19th Street	4	35060100006000
66	Rebarock	David A & Shari A	2384	NE 19th Street	1	35060100003001
67	Clemetson	Doug & Penny	1753	NE 20th Ave	2	35290200001000
68	Wack	Joseph P	1853	NE 20th Ave	1	35300200002000
69	Vollrath	Robert A & Joann P	1705	NE 21st Ave	No	35200100005000
70	Stromsodt	Ronda Lee & Terrance	1751	NE 21st Ave	1	35200200002001
71	Henningsen	Paul H	1753	NE 21st Ave		35200200002002
72	Clemetson	Arlene	1808	NE 21st Ave	1	35180200001000
73	Clemetson	Ronald & Terrie	1857	NE 21st Ave	3	35190200002000
74	McNaughton	Thomas E & Cynthia L	1742	NE 22nd Ave	2	35080400002000
75	Perkerewicz	Joseph	1743	NE 22nd Ave	1	35170100002000
76	Stadstad	Terry & Muriel	1774	NE 22nd Ave	2	35080300002000
77	Romuld	Daniel J & Linda L	1355	NE 23rd Ave	2	35120200010001
78	Molsbarger	Ronald J & Gwen S	1357	NE 23rd Ave	4	35120200009000
79	Smaaladen	Delmer E & Carol L	1371	NE 23rd Ave	2	35120200006000
80	Wilkens	Raymond D & Marilyn L	1381	NE 23rd Ave	2	35120200004000
81	Kuhn	Gregory A & Norma A	1385	NE 23rd Ave	3	35120200003000
82	Meagher	Willie & Debbie Lindholm	1391	NE 23rd Ave	2	
83	Kuhn	Richard T & Susan M	1438	NE 23rd Ave	2	35020400002001
84	Leddige	Anthony J & Sally M	1602	NE 23rd Ave	2	35480100008000
85	Pung	Morris A & Bon	1608	NE 23rd Ave	3	35480100007000
86	Becker	Robert	1614	NE 23rd Ave	2	35480100005000
87	Fladeland	RaNae V	1624	NE 23rd Ave	3	35480100004000
88	Feist	Casper G & Carolyn M	1628	NE 23rd Ave	2	35480100003000
89	Wiener	Rick	1640	NE 23rd Ave	2	
90	Sevigny	Timothy R & Amanda L	1644	NE 23rd Ave	2	35480100001000
91	Meagher	David L & Susan R	1650	NE 23rd Ave	3	35040300001001
92	Goulet	Cindy	1670	NE 23rd Ave	1	35040300006000
93	Stempinski	John M & Mary E	1690	NE 23rd Ave	3	35040300003000
94	Gunsallus	Loretta Gae	1747	NE 23rd Ave	1	35080100001001
95	Larson	Donovan D & Rosemary	1774	NE 23rd Ave	2	35050300003001
96	Larson	Donovan D & Rosemary	1778	NE 23rd Ave		35050300003000

	Last Name	First Name	Street Address	Street	176	Property #
97	Tharaldson	Steven T	1852	NE 23rd Ave	2	35060400002001
98	Meagher	Lydia P.	1454	NE 23rd Ave	1	35020200001000
99	Fairley	Todd C & Sheryl A	2104	NE Clemetson Street		35430200014000
100	Vansickle	Christopher C & Laura L	2105	NE Clemetson Street	2	35430200001000
101	Konze	Greg & Laurie	2111	NE Clemetson Street	2	35430200002000
102	Degelder	Michael & Kathy	2126	NE Clemetson Street	2	35430200011000
103	Atkinson	Clayton S & Glenda L	2127	NE Clemetson Street	2	35430200004000
104	Marlow	Jerome & Mary	2134	NE Clemetson Street	1	
105	Kolodka	Edward B & Jennifer L	2135	NE Clemetson Street		35430200005000
106	Coburn	Benji & Angela	2140	NE Clemetson Street	2	35430200006000
107	Swehla	Michael	2141	NE Clemetson Street		35430200006000
108	Schnelbach	James & Kimberly K.	2146	NE Clemetson Street	3	35430200008000
109	Gerszewski	Daniel J & Kari A	2147	NE Clemetson Street	2	35430200007000
110	Seaver	Travis	1654	US Hwy 2	1	35330300002000
111	Tretter	Gerard M & Margaret M	1780	US Hwy 2	2	35320300001003