

# Neighbors protest restaurant

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Fast food, say residents of the West Washington Park neighborhood, means fast traffic and loads of trash.

About 75 of them picketed on the corner of East Alameda Avenue and South Lincoln Street for two hours yesterday to protest the building of a McDonald's restaurant. The burger outlet could take over a spot where National City Bank used to be located.

Residents of the area say they are concerned about increases in traffic, noise and litter. The restaurant would bring all of those, the picketers said.

McDonald's corporate executives were unavailable for comment.

The protesters carried a variety of signs, many of which played on the slogans used by the hamburger chain. "No Big Mac. Stop the Mac attack," was visible to honking motorists as they drove toward downtown.

Sara St. Cyr, organizer of the protest, said McDonald's plans to build a restaurant with a playground structure, which would possibly include the adjacent property currently used by a car wash.

"They don't know anything about our neighborhood," she said of McDonald's executives. "They just want to roll over us."

St. Cyr said Washington Park's neighborhood plan establishes Lincoln Street as a buffer between residential neighborhoods and businesses lining Broadway.

Doug Linkhart, a state representative and resident of the area, said the fight is a worthy one.

"We could just all give up and say go ahead and take it, but the houses that are here are great," Linkhart said. "The people are really dedicated to saving the area."



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**FED UP:** Nancy Basta and her daughter Kaitlin show their feelings on McDonald's plan to build in their Washington Park neighborhood.