

#20-1706

From: scottagraham@charter.net
Subject: Taco John's Conditional Use Permit
Date: Dec 29, 2020 at 11:38:53 PM
To: Olson, Jessica olsonje@cityoflacrosse.org

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Tuesday, December 29,
2020

To Jessica Olson, La Crosse
City Council Member, District 8:

My name is Scott Graham

and I am your constituent living at 1224 Mississippi Street in La Crosse. I am writing to urge you to deny the application from Jeff Fennie for a Conditional Use Permit allowing demolition of the former Coulee Council on Addictions building at 921 West Avenue for a parking lot.

I purchased my house in

1993 and have lived here for 27 years. Although my house is quite near the busy intersection of West and Jackson, I have worked to make my backyard an urban oasis of nature by adding bird baths and feeders, a small grove of aspen trees to complement the existing

mature shade trees, and a patio with outdoor fireplace and a hot tub to create a space for friends and family to gather and relax. It has been a wonderful place to raise my two daughters, and the backyards of my neighbors up and down the block are similarly pleasant.

I am upset to learn that

our peace and property values are now threatened by Jeff Fennie's plan to tear down a two story structure directly between my backyard and the West and Jackson intersection and replace it with nothing but surface parking and an expanded two-lane drive-through for his Taco John's restaurant. The result will be a huge gap in the wall of houses that shield the interior of our residential block from the traffic and noise of West Avenue, negatively impacting the backyards of houses throughout the block. In addition, the additional drive-through lanes will mean more idling cars, more exhaust, and more headlights all along the alley and within sight of our homes.

I cannot tell from the

plan if Mr. Fennie intends to allow car traffic to enter and exit from the alley, but ever since he added the drive-through many years ago over our objections the neighbors have asked him to take actions to divert traffic from the alley where our children

play. We have had nominal results: he first said he had no choice but to divert traffic into the alley because there wasn't room on his property due to an adjoining muffler shop; he instead installed a traffic sign asking drivers to be safe and not turn

down the "T" of the alley, a sign which was later knocked down and not replaced; when he later bought and tore down the muffler shop he continued to divert traffic down the alley anyway. For years we have cringed as Taco John customers have sped through

our alley, hoping that no child gets hit and fuming when fast food litter gets thrown from windows and never cleaned up by Taco John employees. The plan for an expanded, two

lane drive-through does not fit our residential, family neighborhood and threatens the safety of all who live here.

For all these reasons

I ask you, the members of the La Crosse City Plan Commission, the members of the Judiciary and Administration Committee, and the members of the Common Council to deny Mr. Fennie's application for a Conditional Use Permit. We need to protect the property values,

safety, and livability of our urban residential neighborhoods so that families will continue to want to invest and live in La Crosse into the future.

Sincerely,

Scott Graham

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