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MAY 31 2023

CITY OF SUMAS

Esteemed Mayor and Council members,

I am writing this e-mail to you in regard to item 5a. of the agenda of the May 22nd Sumas City Council meeting about the Change of Zoning or Classification Application of Brad Heppner of the property at the south end of town, owned by the Whatcom Fire District.

At this meeting Council voted to allow this to be property to be docketed for re-zoning to allow mini-warehousing. I believe this should have been a proposal for docketing rather than an approval for docketing as I don't believe that this fits the neighborhood or the neighbors desires.
I am a resident of Sumas and live at 1245 Sumas Ave – within 300' of the property with the proposed change of zoning. I have noticed that in the Change of Zoning or Classification Application it called for notification by self-addressed labels pre-addressed to the latest recorded real property owners within three hundred (300') of the property affected by the application. I have not received any notice about this and was only notified about the meeting about this minutes before the latest council meeting.

I believe that a Proposal for docketing would have given neighbors the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed zoning as so to avoid conflict in the future. I have talked with my neighbors and they are all opposed to the mini warehouse designation as they do not feel it fits the neighborhood. One neighbor of mine even stated that he would probably be good with about anything else besides this designation. There aren't too many people happy with this idea and I think it would be good to have more input before going down this path.

There are many commercial areas in more industrial areas where the mini-warehouse designation would be more fitting. It is realized that this is commercial property but it seems more fitting that a different commercial application or multi-family construction would fit better in the neighborhood given the surrounding properties.

I know that there will probably be more input sought from residents in the future but I think that it would be good to vet this out a little more before proceeding with this.

Attached are associated documents for reference.

Please feel free to contact me or let me know if you would like me to speak with you.

We are opposed to this being re-zoned to allow mini warehouse in our neighborhood and we would ask the council to re-consider their position and consider other designation for this property.

Thank you,

Darren Leyenhorst