

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in concern for a proposed change on my property (1444 cherry street) and the surrounding properties around. The proposed change is the zoning going from Business General District to Mini-Warehouse District.

A couple mentions I'd like to point out, is the City of Sumas is recognized as a Great Place to Live and do business. What's the first thing that the sign recognizes? Live. A great place to live comes first. Sumas is home to 1500+ residents. Sumas is recognized for agricultural, dairy, great food, and a community that thrives. Without the people of Sumas, there would be nothing. Living in Sumas is peaceful, quiet, safe, and secure. Does the city of Sumas really want the first thing people see is a storage facility? Does that really represent what the city is offering? It's odd to think that the first thing the city talks about is a great place to live but what's coming first is a storage facility instead. In the middle of homes that have been in Sumas for over 70 years. I have concerns about the noise, ecological, and security that this proposal will damage.

I'd like to bring up the impacts of this change that would bring to the surrounding properties. According to the Sumas code:

- (a) All storage shall be inside, i.e., within a covered building with four closed sides.
- (b) The land specifically used for the mini-warehouse storage and the access to and from the storage, including turnaround and backing area for loading and unloading, shall be covered with asphalt (or other similar or better ground cover as may be approved by the city) together with proper drainage.
- (c) A strip of lawn or landscape gardening at least five feet in width shall be maintained around the property specifically used as the mini-warehouse.
- (d) One sign, not in excess of thirty-two square feet, shall be allowed to advertise the mini-warehouse use and all signs in excess of this amount are prohibited. (Ord. 1002 (Attachment A) (part), 1989)

Two years ago, the Sumas Flood damaged many, many homes and businesses throughout the area. The facility will create a dam effect to the properties surrounding. I have great concern for the drainage of this proposed plan. Especially after the Sumas Flood impacting so many homes. How is this property going to be properly drained? Is it going to impact the creek that is near my home? The traffic impacts. The hours of operation. And mini-storages show a greater impact for theft.

That would significantly impact my housing insurance costs and car insurance if the theft is increased in my area. I'd like to point out that other cities have reported higher theft crime with storage facilities, see the link below:

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/video-public-storage-locker-thefts/IAYU43I4WFLHX4YHFZE5SMWRRY/>

Is this going to be a climate-controlled facilities? How is it going to be inspected for mold? What security measures would be taken into place to reduce the risk of burglary and theft? How will this impact the safety and security of a city that we all love and cherish so much? Statistically,

storage facilities have a greater risk for mold, individuals storing dangerous chemicals, and how will this property be controlled so it doesn't attract individuals living in the units? Sumas has always been a safe and quiet community. What risks are we allowing for the safety of the residents? I still want to point out the sign that states City of Sumas is a great place to LIVE and do business. Live comes first. The safety and security of our residents should always come first.

Next to my home is a creek, the environmental impacts of a storage facility not properly monitoring the sites could be damaging to the environment. What happens is someone is storing drugs in the storage units? What happens if someone decides to store toxic chemicals and it leaks out to the ground water? This could dramatically impact the environment (especially with the creek next to this facility). There's also deer that frequent the field and creek and any other wildlife. Can you imagine if this storage facility was leaking chemicals and it was harming the wildlife and the ecosystem of the creek? What would an environmental team have to say? What would the department of fish and wildlife have to say? What would the department of ecology have to say? My family works with the department of ecology, fish and wildlife, and EPA. My family member has to review specific plans and be prepared to make sure if there's any type of leak or disaster, they are prepared and the facility they work at is protecting the community and the wildlife. There's no control with a storage facility to contain these types of chemicals. Yes, they can post rules, but what type of preparedness is there for them to protect the wildlife from individuals causing harm to the environment? None. Storage facilities have very loose control over these types of events, if any at all.

I'd also like to point out, a couple years ago I wanted to do a small storage facility under my home. I'd live above the storage facility in an apartment style and the storage units would be below. This would allow me to supervise the area better. Watch for any chemical leaks or any suspicious activity. It would be a controlled environment and me living above the area provides a sense of security as well. I was told no. I was told that the plan I had provided was not "harmonious". And, I was not allowed a variance either. I wanted to live in Sumas and do business. I was denied both, and that fully goes against the first sign you see coming into Sumas "A great place to live and do business".

Now, all of a sudden, this is going in front of the building committee? I'd like to just point out the definition of discrimination:

"The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, age, sex, or disability."

I'd like to point out the unjust treatment this is to be considering this storage unit facility when I was rejected due to it not being "harmonious".

I'd like to ask, is that a great way to live? To discriminate and provide unjust treatment due to a resident? Does that honestly make Sumas a "Great place to Live"? No, it doesn't. The unfair and unjust treatment is wrongful discrimination. We are a community of love, equality, and fair treatment. Not greed, money, unjust treatment, and discrimination. I attached the letters showing the rejection I received and I wasn't even offered a chance.

I am humbly asking that this request for a change to my land would be denied. Not only due to discrimination purposes, but because of the safety and security of the community and surrounding ecosystem.

I am not opposed to small businesses, I mean I wanted one and was rejected, what I am opposed to? Inequality and unfair treatment.

This storage facility will harm the ecosystem, safety and security, and it will also ruin the harmonious nature of the surrounding property, as Sumas once so unjustly told me that I was doing.

Regards,

An extremely concerned community member

Diane Ackerman