

#160134

Greater Duval Neighborhood Association

August 15, 2016

Attention Gainesville City Commission,

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen, I am also a representative of Greater Duval Neighborhood Association. I am writing concerning the Upcoming commission meeting about the gas station proposed by Murphy USA . First I am saddened by the fact that I will not be in attendance. I have a great opportunity to help develop an anti-violence program in Duval, and will be out of state for the training. I would like to enter this letter into record concerning the city's decision to allow a business of this magnitude to develop in direct proximity to a residential neighborhood. My concerns are three-fold and are as follows:

Demographics

There are 9 gas stations within a two mile radius of our neighborhood, some with adjacent liquor stores. This will add to the problems already plaguing our streets. More alcohol, more cigarettes, and more loitering will add to the already troubled and congested area. Being on the out skirts of a homeless camp, loitering will double. As a former prostitute and drug addict, I am very aware of the activities that go on at stations, especially large stations that attract diesel trucks, and semis. I know this is a little late as the property has already been zoned for a 6 pump gas station, however that brings me to my next concern.

Notification

Currently your land use notification ordinances are biased and do fail to equally protect all of your citizens. I represent a large portion of your residents that do not own homes. Some of us live in Heir-property and rentals, according to the City of Gainesville, we do not have the same rights as home owners and that's not right, especially since all of our votes cast and account the same. Whatever the benefits or problems with a new venture could affect us all. For example, I live here, and my sister lives in California, even though I am affected by the business, my sister gets the notification in California. I actually live here, and there is nothing that says the city has to notify me, only my sister. That leaves a lot of residents out in the cold, and ultimately without a voice in the matter. That leads me to my third concern.....

The Advisory Board

I will that the City is more selective in the choosing persons to represent the residents. I was disturbed at Ms. Elon's snapping of her fingers and saying "come on people make it snappy" was too insensitive and impersonal of an attitude to be a public servant, especially while presiding. I felt as if the citizen

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comment portion was a waste of her time because as she said, she had swimming to do. And Mr. Teckler's Advice to the commission is to allow gas to just run into the pond and soil, no matter what the danger to us would be because and I quote " We don't want to cost the OIL company too much money trying to protect our residents. That's why businesses don't want to move here, because we want them to cater to and protect the residents" He said he would advise against an oil separator to protect the environment because he wanted to protect the business. I would that you would choose people in professions that actually care about the residents and the city as a whole.

Because the City had no mandate to notify us, several of us were not here for the original voting process and would like to take this time to ask the city to please protect us. We realize that the zoning allows the gas station, but ask that you do not increase the size, the number of pumps, or make any type of special permitting for this endeavor. I am imagining, at some point during zoning they set in guidelines to protect the neighborhood, such as the amount of pumps/fueling stations that are allowed, and hours of operation. Please do not steer away from these and vote no to increase the size of the gas station, and please considering mandating businesses to invest in the neighborhood residents if they're going to be making profits in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Carla Lewis, GDNA