

Jasmine Forbes

From: Dee Ledger <revddl@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Jud Ashman
Cc: Laurie-Anne Sayles; Neil Harris; Michael Sesma; Ryan Spiegel; Robert Wu; Planning External Mailing; Jasmine Forbes; Anthony Berger; Dennis Enslinger
Subject: Re: concerning the East Deer Park Neighborhood

This email is from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Thank you, Jud. It is hard to know who to contact for what matter. I have also informed Mr. Ryan S. of a matter re. a tree that fell (where Wawa's property is) which was not removed (since fall) and also of the smashed fence there. I will forward those emails to you. My home was the scene of an attempted breakin in Feb and attempted assault. I haven't spoken much about it, but the matter is public record. The man was drunk, unknown to me, apprehended around 2 am or so in my backyard, as he made his way to the broken fence area. Again, I am not blaming the new/old owners of the antique property but trying to help you see why neighbors are concerned about a number of things-- and I am speaking from my own perspective as a new resident. The man worked for an embassy and was drunk (I took out a peace order) and likely did not know the severity of his actions in trying to break in that night.

Needless to say-- it would be great if Wawa fixed their fence and we weren't a go-between or target for breaking in.

I live alone (50 years old) with two small children. Because the man worked for a foreign embassy, he was handled by the state dept and not prosecuted due to immunity.

Sincerely
Rev Dee Ledger

On Sun, Aug 16, 2020 at 10:55 AM Jud Ashman <Jud.Ashman@gaithersburgmd.gov> wrote:

Hi Dee,

Thanks for this message. We will have it added to the record on the DeVol application. Please note: while DeVol filed this application, the Council has not yet made a decision on whether or not to approve. That vote will likely happen at some point in October.

If you want to learn more about this application, here's a link to the video that includes the public hearing: https://youtu.be/kwr_Ph8p2Bo In it, the applicant does address some of the environmental concerns you bring up.

Regarding the other issues you brought up:

- A crosswalk on 355: 355 is a state highway, so we wouldn't have direct control on this matter. I've copied Tony Berger on this message so can either reply to you or contact SHA and ask them to take a look at that intersection.
- Sidewalks on East Deer Park: I 100% agree with this request! That road is scary for pedestrians. However, I believe it would require the permission of the property owners, which is not always easy to get. Tony, can you address this point as well?

Yours,

- Jud

Jud Ashman
Mayor, Gaithersburg, MD
Founder & Chair, Gaithersburg Book Festival
www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org

From: Dee Ledger <revddl@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:35:32 AM
To: Laurie-Anne Sayles; Neil Harris; Michael Sesma; Ryan Spiegel; Robert Wu; Jud Ashman; Planning External Mailing; Jasmine Forbes
Subject: concerning the East Deer Park Neighborhood

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Dear Friends,

I am a local pastor who, three years ago, made Gaithersburg and the East Deer Park area my home as part of home assistance program via your city government. I love my home and our neighborhood, but am concerned about a recent development.

My children (age 8) and I walk regularly near DeVol Funeral home. I understand that there are plans to place a crematorium in this residential neighborhood which is an industrial use and not allowable in a residential area. In any case, it is not suitable for our area. We need sidewalks on the road where DeVol is proposing such a site which allow us to access adjoining roads and the bus safely. A crematorium, even with sidewalks added, has discharge and industrial waste/side effects. It is also a poor investment in this community which is residential. While I empathize with DeVol's desires to expand, this is NOT the area to do that in.

I am also very concerned about development that doesn't take the safety and needs of the neighborhood into concern. This is of particular interest to me since my property is one of the primary properties abutting the future Wawa location (my backyard directly abuts the back of the Wawa site and the old antique store). I remained neutral re. Wawa even though a strong fence is definitely needed there, natural embankment, responsible tree and removal of debris (a tree fell and has yet to be removed by the new/old owners and wildlife is residing there and accessing our property) and lighting/gas spill concerns would all affect my property, one that you helped me to purchase 3 years ago, as I was attracted to the small community.

A crematorium is not appropriate for our area in East Deer Park. It is not a simple "extension" of DeVol's business. Please consider the neighborhood and also how having sidewalks that do not "end" on a busy road would better help this area.

In addition, I am deeply concerned about the lack of a light and crosswalks at the Liberty gas station/Goodwill on 355. If you are walking or taking the bus (as many do), or walking with children, the current traffic lights are spaced VERY far apart and require one to walk several blocks, uphill, just to find a safe place to walk, whether one is trying to get to either side of the street. There are churches on one side that have no way of accessing without walking entirely too far or risking one's life to cross 355. Many people, including the elderly and children, must cross at risk. There are problems at the Liberty gas station as well, for cars trying to cross 355 at busy times and off-times to get into the plaza or to cross opposing traffic without a light or crosswalk. Because I live in the area and also WALK the area, I can see these problems first hand.

I am writing with these three issues taken together, in the hopes that you will take these concerns seriously, and also give some *deep reflection* to the persistent problems and concerns of the East Deer Park neighborhood which have been all brought upon us by recent development that doesn't seem to preference the residential neighborhood and quality of life. Please reconsider the Crematorium, sidewalk access, and appropriate development that *enhances* safety, health, and welfare of residents, rather than putting businesses' desires for development at the forefront.

Respectfully yours,

Sincerely,

Rev. Dee Ledger (resident 7 Tulip Drive, widow and mother of two curious and lovely twin boys, and home to our Little Free Library that we installed to promote communal sharing)

Jasmine Forbes

From: Dee Ledger <revddl@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Jud Ashman; Laurie-Anne Sayles; Neil Harris; Michael Sesma; Ryan Spiegel; Robert Wu; Planning External Mailing; Jasmine Forbes; Anthony Berger; Dennis Enslinger
Subject: Fwd: concerning the East Deer Park Neighborhood

This email is from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I had sent this followup to Mr. Ryan S.
It's hard to know what issue goes to what area of government.
I don't normally write such letters. It has been a culmination of things.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Rev Dee Ledger

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dee Ledger <revddl@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Aug 16, 2020 at 10:17 AM
Subject: Re: concerning the East Deer Park Neighborhood
To: Ryan Spiegel <ryan.spiegel@gaithersburgmd.gov>

Dear Mr. Spiegel,

The thought occurs to me (re. the fallen tree on the property behind me, now Wawa's property) that some history may be in order. The tree (large) fell in the fall of 2019 from a neighbor's property and dissected the fence that is behind me, but owned by Wawa/antique store. The fence was smashed. It is their fence, though it serves a divider betw my property and theirs. The tree was never removed from their side and the fence never fixed.

In early February, my house was the scene of a man trying to access our home at 2 am. He was arrested and taken into custody in my back yard as he made his way to the damaged back fence. (He was also drunk, attempted assault, and break in). This is a matter of public record. We never found out why he tried to get into our home and he was apparently working for a foreign government. The State dept got involved.

I am sorry to convey this to you-- but there are legitimate reasons why I have serious reservations and concerns, now --more than ever.

If you'd like a photo to help your City Manager with followup, please let me know. I am the pastor of Bethesda United Church of Christ and all of this is a matter of public record (the arrest-- breaking and entering, attempted assault, endangerment, etc). The man could not be prosecuted due to working for embassy-- The State Dept told me that they were under the impression that he returned to his country of origin.

I still love where I live.

Best
Rev Dee Ledger

On Sun, Aug 16, 2020 at 9:51 AM Ryan Spiegel <ryan.spiegel@gaithersburgmd.gov> wrote:

Dear Reverend,

Thank you for your email.

Your comments regarding the crematorium application will be placed in the public record for that application, which is pending.

As for your other points about sidewalks, lighting, and pedestrian safety, though we are faced with limitations on our authority and resources, we really try to take resident input seriously. I have forwarded your comments to our Acting City Manager to see if we can look into your concerns. Again, thank you.

Best,
Ryan Spiegel

On Aug 16, 2020, at 9:35 AM, Dee Ledger <revddl@gmail.com> wrote:

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Dear Friends,

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I am also very concerned about development that doesn't take the safety and needs of the neighborhood into concern. This is of particular interest to me since my property is one of the primary properties abutting the future Wawa location (my backyard directly abuts the back of the Wawa site and the old antique store). I remained neutral re. Wawa even though a strong fence is definitely needed there, natural embankment, responsible tree and removal of debris (a tree fell and has yet to be removed by the new/old owners and wildlife is residing there and accessing our property) and lighting/gas spill concerns would all affect my property, one that you helped me to purchase 3 years ago, as I was attracted to the small community.

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Respectfully yours,

Sincerely,

Rev. Dee Ledger (resident 7 Tulip Drive, widow and mother of two curious and lovely twin boys, and home to our Little Free Library that we installed to promote communal sharing)

Jasmine Forbes

From: Jasmine Forbes
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:28 AM
To: 'FangFang Ren'
Cc: Jud Ashman; Laurie-Anne Sayles; Neil Harris; Michael Sesma; Ryan Spiegel; Robert Wu; Dennis Enslinger
Subject: RE: Concerns about DeVol funeral home's crematorium plan at 14 Deer Park Drive gaithersburg Neighborhood.

Good Morning,

Thank you for your correspondence related to Concept Site Plan application SP-8415-2020. Your correspondence will be included in the Council's record for their consideration.

Regards,
Jasmine Forbes

Jasmine Forbes, Planner I
Planning and Code Administration

City of Gaithersburg | 31 South Summit Avenue | Gaithersburg, MD, 20877
Direct: 240-805-1069 | Main: 301-258-6330 | www.gaithersburgmd.gov
Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: FangFang Ren <fangfangrenart@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 3:14 PM
To: Jud Ashman <Jud.Ashman@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Laurie-Anne Sayles <Laurie-Anne.Sayles@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Neil Harris <Neil.Harris@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Michael Sesma <michael.sesma@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Ryan Spiegel <ryan.spiegel@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Robert Wu <robert.wu@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Jasmine Forbes <Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov>
Subject: Concerns about DeVol funeral home's crematorium plan at 14 Deer Park Drive gaithersburg Neighborhood.

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Hello,

My name is Fang Ren, I'm a home owner at E Deer Park Drive gaithersburg neighborhood. I've learned that DeVol Funeral Home is planning on building a crematorium in our neighborhood. Their request should never be approved because this is a residential area. Anyone who has common sense should know that a crematorium should never be built in a residential area due to the facts that it releases poisonous chemicals ,mercury, ash,and other cancer causing agents into the air . It also go against to my culture. This is a place for people to live not for dead bodies to be burned.

Please stop this nonsense. Devol Funeral Home obviously dose not care about our rights and health.

Sincerely,
Fang Ren

Jasmine Forbes

From: Jasmine Forbes
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:32 AM
To: 'donsail68@gmail.com'
Cc: Laurie-Anne Sayles; Michael Sesma; Robert Wu; Neil Harris; Ryan Spiegel; Jud Ashman; Dennis Enslinger
Subject: RE: De Vol Funeral Home

Good Morning,

Thank you for your correspondence related to Concept Site Plan application SP-8415-2020. Your correspondence will be included in the Council's record for their consideration.

Regards,
Jasmine Forbes

Jasmine Forbes, Planner I
Planning and Code Administration

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Direct: 240-805-1069 | Main: 301-258-6330 | www.gaithersburgmd.gov
Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: donsail68@gmail.com <donsail68@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:13 PM
To: Laurie-Anne Sayles <Laurie-Anne.Sayles@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Michael Sesma <michael.sesma@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Robert Wu <robert.wu@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Planning External Mailing <Planning@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Neil Harris <Neil.Harris@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Ryan Spiegel <ryan.spiegel@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Jud Ashman <Jud.Ashman@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Jasmine Forbes <Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov>
Subject: De Vol Funeral Home

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Dear Sir/Madam

My wife, two children, and I live on Tulip Drive. I do not approve or want 14 East Deer Park Drive be convert to a crematorium. We have our health to be concerned about. It is upsetting to know poisonous chemicals be spewing into the air we breathe in. You do not have the right to put a price on our lives. And this may hurt the value of our property for no one wants to live next or near to a cancerous causing business.

Please do not allow this to happen.

Thank you

Donald Craig

Sent from my iPhone

Jasmine Forbes

From: Jasmine Forbes
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 9:35 AM
To: 'Helaine Scott'
Subject: RE: cremtorium

Good Morning,

Thank you for your correspondence related to Concept Site Plan application SP-8415-2020. Your correspondence will be included in the Council's record for their consideration.

Regards,
Jasmine Forbes



Jasmine Forbes, Planner I
Planning and Code Administration

City of Gaithersburg | 31 South Summit Avenue | Gaithersburg, MD, 20877
Direct: 240-805-1069 | Main: 301-258-6330 | www.gaithersburgmd.gov
Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov

From: Helaine Scott <helaisc@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 8:27 PM
To: Jasmine Forbes <Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov>
Subject: cremtorium

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As a Jewish Montgomery County resident how dare they consider moving this in to a neighborhood. This is like in Germany when Jewish people were massacred. There is plenty of land around that is not near where people live.

Disgraceful.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Jasmine Forbes

From: Jud Ashman
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 7:58 AM
To: jan_g@lycos.com; Laurie-Anne Sayles; Neil Harris; Michael Sesma; Ryan Spiegel; Robert Wu; Jasmine Forbes
Subject: Re: No Crematorium in Gaithersburg

Hi Jan,

Thanks for the message. We will add it to our record on the DeVol application.

Yours,
- Jud

Jud Ashman
Mayor, Gaithersburg, MD
Founder & Chair, Gaithersburg Book Festival
www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org

From: jan_g@lycos.com <jan_g@lycos.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:01:45 PM
To: Jud Ashman; Laurie-Anne Sayles; Neil Harris; Michael Sesma; Ryan Spiegel; Robert Wu; Jasmine Forbes
Subject: No Crematorium in Gaithersburg

This email is from an EXTERNAL source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

To the Mayor and all members of the Gaithersburg City Council:

I live at 112 E. Deer Park Drive in Gaithersburg and absolutely oppose the installation of a crematorium at De Vol Funeral Home. Crematoriums are an Industrial Use in Montgomery County and have no legal place in a residential neighborhood.

I strongly encourage all of you to deny this irresponsible request from De Vol to install a facility that will serve no useful purpose to the community and will only further pollute the air in Gaithersburg.

As a long term resident of Gaithersburg I strongly believe that approval of such a request would be completely irresponsible.

Sincerely,
Jan Gabrielson