

## Jasmine Forbes

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**From:** Jasmine Forbes  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:56 PM  
**To:** 'Pamela Lindstrom'  
**Subject:** RE: staff analysis

Staff will be attending the meeting to answer any questions about the application process. The Applicant is planning to have the virtual meeting on September 9th at 6:30pm. I do not have the meeting link yet, but it will be posted on the project page. The Applicant will also mail out notices about the meeting.

**From:** Pamela Lindstrom <pamela.lindstrom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:17 PM  
**To:** Jasmine Forbes <Jasmine.Forbes@gaitthersburgmd.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: staff analysis

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Are you saying that planning staff will respond to citizens' questions at the meeting scheduled by deVol? What is DeVol's deadline for conducting this meeting and submitting their responses, so that citizens have the opportunity to respond to them before the record closes on Sept. 16?

On Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 12:07 PM Jasmine Forbes <[Jasmine.Forbes@gaitthersburgmd.gov](mailto:Jasmine.Forbes@gaitthersburgmd.gov)> wrote:

I do not know when the applicant is going to submit their response. To be part of the record, their response must be submit by the September 16th deadline. Once we received that letter, I will send it to you and it will be posted on the City's project page. The Applicant has let staff know that they are organizing a meeting with the surrounding community to discuss this application. This is an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have about the application. Please note that this meeting is not organized by the City.

**From:** Pamela Lindstrom <[pamela.lindstrom@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.lindstrom@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Jasmine Forbes <[Jasmine.Forbes@gaitthersburgmd.gov](mailto:Jasmine.Forbes@gaitthersburgmd.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: staff analysis

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Thanks, Jasmine, but that's not actually what I asked. My previous questions are pasted below. The applicant must have a deadline which is well before the record closes which I believe is September 16. Otherwise there is no way for the public to respond to the changed application and the staff's response before the mayor and Council consideration on October 5.

My Questions: When is the applicant's response due? Will it be released to the public as soon as it's sent to you?

Pam Lindstrom

On Fri, Aug 21, 2020 at 8:36 AM Jasmine Forbes <[Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov)> wrote:

As of right now, I do not have a date of when they will submit their response. Please note that the Council's record has been extended until September 16th to allow the Applicant to do outreach to the community. When we receive the response, it will be placed on the City's Project page.

**From:** Pamela Lindstrom <[pamela.lindstrom@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.lindstrom@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 7:43 PM  
**To:** Jasmine Forbes <[Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: staff analysis

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

Thanks, Jasmine. When is the applicant's response due? Will it be released to the public as soon as its sent to you?

On Thu, Aug 20, 2020 at 4:59 PM Jasmine Forbes <[Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov)> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Once we receive the applicant's response to the public and council's comments, we will start writing the final analysis. The analysis will be completed before the October 5 Mayor and Council final action meeting.

**From:** Pamela Lindstrom <[pamela.lindstrom@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.lindstrom@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:55 PM  
**To:** Jasmine Forbes <[Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov)>  
**Subject:** staff analysis

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Jasmine, I looked at the preliminary staff analysis and noted that it implies that the staff will make a recommendation before the next M&C discussion. The Summary is pasted below.

When do you think the recommendation will be provided

Thanks

Pam Lindstrom

**SUMMARY:**

The Applicant has submitted for consideration concept site plan SP-8415-2020. This a complete application as set forth in § 24-160G.7(b). A public hearing with the Mayor & City Council has been scheduled for August 3, 2020.

Because this is the initial public hearing and Staff continues to complete their analysis of the proposed project, no formal recommendation is provided at this time.

**Jasmine Forbes**

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**From:** Michael Sesma  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 10:36 AM  
**To:** goggingg@aol.com  
**Cc:** Doris Stokes; Jasmine Forbes  
**Subject:** Re: DeVol Funeral Home's Crematorium Plans

Dea Mia,

Thank you for sharing your opinion on the DeVol plan. Your email will be included in the record for this issue.

Best,  
Mike

Michael A. Sesma  
Council Member, City of Gaithersburg  
301-412-4136

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**From:** goggingg@aol.com <goggingg@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 9:30:59 PM  
**To:** Michael Sesma  
**Subject:** Re: DeVol Funeral Home's Crematorium Plans

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

Mai Liis Goggin  
440 Gaither St.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
301-963-9079  
[goggingg@aol.com](mailto:goggingg@aol.com)

The Honorable Michael Sesma  
Member, Gaithersburg City Council  
Gaithersburg City Hall  
31 S Summit Ave., Gaithersburg MD 20877

Dear Council Member, Sesma:

My husband, and I have lived in our home in Gaithersburg for over 30 years, We love the the many amenities that the city offers, especially the beautiful Parks, such a Bohrer Park and Christman Park. We are pleased by the lovely architecture of The Rio Center, as well as by the friendly atmosphere and many other attractive qualities of living in Gaithersburg.

We hope to continue to live happily in Gaithersburg for many years to come. We are, however, shocked and worried since having received information a few days ago that is of deep concern to us and to our neighbors: Namely, we learned of plans by DeVol Funeral Home to convert a residential building on 14 East Deer Park Drive into a crematorium. This would greatly lower the quality of life in the area: It would not only lower property values, it would - more importantly - have a negative impact on the health of residents of the area. Among those most effected would be the many children and elderly people who live close to the funeral home. My husband and I live only a few homes away from the building; I am an older lady who has an autoimmune health condition. I, and others (especially children, the elderly, and others with underlying health problems), would be seriously impacted by poisons such as Mercury, and other toxins (which include

cancer-causing, asthma-triggering, and also possibly autism-causing agents, as well as the ashes of dead bodies which would be generated just yards from homes).

We implore you to please keep us safe: Please do not allow a crematorium near our homes and parks and schools.

Thank you for your attention to this most important matter!

Sincerely,

Mai Liis Goggin

P.S. I have included key points, below, from a bulletin that we received recently about DeVol Funeral Home's plans to create the crematorium:

- Crematoriums are an Industrial Use in Montgomery County and have no legal place in a residential neighborhood
- We do not want a crematorium – blowing the ashes of dead bodies – near our homes, parks, and schools.
- DeVol is located in Gaithersburg’s Commercial-Development (CD) Zone. A CD Zone is intended to enhance resident’s lives. Does a Toxic DeVol Crematorium enhance your life? Tell the Mayor & Council that it certainly does not. This is a key point !
- DeVol has testified that there would be a “chimney” for the crematorium. It’s not shown on the site plan they submitted. It could be 20 feet high according to other funeral directors!
- There is only one other crematorium in Montgomery County, Pumphrey Funeral Home in Downtown Bethesda. Its zoning is grandfathered from decades ago and would never be approved today.
- DeVol is misrepresenting that cremation is part of a funeral home’s operations. This is not true. It is a separately licensed service.
- DeVol has held no public meetings. They want a bigger parking lot but say there will be no more traffic. They submitted misleading graphics. What else are they hiding?

**Jasmine Forbes**

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**From:** Michael Sesma  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 2:03 PM  
**To:** Kenneth Mezger  
**Cc:** Doris Stokes; Jasmine Forbes  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Crematorium

Dear Kenneth,

Thank you for sharing your opinion on the DeVol plan. Your email will be included in the record for this issue.

Best,  
Mike

Michael A. Sesma  
Council Member, City of Gaithersburg  
301-412-4136

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**From:** Kenneth Mezger <kenvideo@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 10:51:39 AM  
**To:** Michael Sesma  
**Subject:** Proposed Crematorium

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

**Mr. Mayor and Council Members for Gaithersburg City, Maryland**

**August 27, 2020**

As you know the city Council for Gaithersburg, Maryland is preparing to hear final arguments regarding the DeV funeral home and an adjoining crematorium. Any plans to further entertain this idea would be very damaging to the city in general and it's very bad politics. This is a terrible idea due to the toxins that could and would be floating away from this said crematorium. And frankly speaking — nobody wants to live close to where humans bodies are being burned up. Please put it next to your home.

I hope you will make the right decision and abandon any efforts to continue with this matter. The citizens who live close to this area or in an uproar right now, and it's not fair to pit them through anymore anxiety.

Please vote NO to the proposed application number SP-8415-2020. I do hope you'll do the correct thing.

Sincerely,

Kenneth T. Mezger

[8 George Street](#)

[Gaithersburg, Md 20877](#)

**Jasmine Forbes**

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**From:** Jasmine Forbes  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 4:07 PM  
**To:** 'jim fenn'  
**Subject:** RE: NO to the proposed DeVol application SP-8415-2020

Good Afternoon,

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. Please note that the Council's record on this application will close on September 16th. For information about the application, please visit the project page:

<https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/government/projects-in-the-city/10-and-14-east-deer-park-drive> .

Regards,  
Jasmine Forbes



**Jasmine Forbes, Planner I**  
**Planning and Code Administration**

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

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**From:** jim fenn <jfenn13@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 3:47 PM  
**To:** Michael Sesma <michael.sesma@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Ryan Spiegel <ryan.spiegel@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Robert Wu <robert.wu@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Neil Harris <Neil.Harris@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Jasmine Forbes <Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Jud Ashman <Jud.Ashman@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Planning External Mailing <Planning@gaithersburgmd.gov>; Laurie-Anne Sayles <Laurie-Anne.Sayles@gaithersburgmd.gov>  
**Subject:** NO to the proposed DeVol application SP-8415-2020

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

Dear Gaithersburg City Mayor, Councilperson or city planner:

I have lived in the city of Gaithersburg and have called it my home since 1974. I am opposed to the application of the DeVol Funeral Home to place a Crematorium in the Deer Park area of Gaithersburg. It would put industrial chemicals into the air of the city I have been privileged to be a resident for 46 years. I think so much of the city that my wife and I raised our children in this city. I purchased a home in the city.

Please do not allow industrial businesses into the city that will pollute the clean and fresh air which I value very highly.

Please read the below items that were pulled from the web.

I do not think any of you want to be associated with approving the application for a crematorium in Gaithersburg.

Thank you.

James Fenn  
240-994-0994

PS:  
In 2010, the United States Environmental Protection Agency stated that toxins are released into the environment through the **cremation** of human bodies. The most **dangerous** of these is mercury. ... The EPA confirms that there are serious health effects from even low-level exposure to mercury. Jul 11, 2011

The gases are at a very high temperature and are cooled. However, gaseous emissions are by far the greatest source of **cremation pollution**. ... A study by the **Cremation** Association of North America has found that filtering **crematorium** fumes has little effect on the toxins released. Source:

### **Effect of cremation on environment - CALGARY CO-OPERATIVE ...**

[www.calgarymemorial.com](http://www.calgarymemorial.com) > *effect-of-cremation-on-*

Mercury is what most people who **live near** crematories are mainly concerned about. ... Mercury can be present in the amalgam dental fillings and medical devices of bodies that are cremated, and it's most dangerous when it's heated. Nov 5, 2018

### **Crematories and 'Safe' Chemicals. When it comes to air quality and ...**

[medium.com](http://medium.com) > *story > are-crematory-emissions-saf*

**Jasmine Forbes**

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**From:** Jasmine Forbes  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 5:01 PM  
**To:** 'goggingg@aol.com'  
**Subject:** RE: DeVol Funeral Home's Crematorium Plans

Good Afternoon,

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. Please note that the Council's record on this application will close on September 16th. As I stated over the phone, the Applicant is organizing a virtual community meeting on September 9 at 6:30 pm. As of right now I do not have a link to the meeting, but once we get it, it will be posted on the following project page: <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/government/projects-in-the-city/10-and-14-east-deer-park-drive> . If you have any other questions, please let me know.

Regards,  
Jasmine Forbes

**From:** goggingg@aol.com <goggingg@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 4:37 PM  
**To:** Jasmine Forbes <Jasmine.Forbes@gaithersburgmd.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: DeVol Funeral Home's Crematorium Plans

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

Mai Liis Goggin  
440 Gaither St.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
301-963-9079  
[goggingg@aol.com](mailto:goggingg@aol.com)

Ms. Jasmine.Forbes  
Gaithersburg City Planner  
Gaithersburg City Hall  
31 S Summit Ave., Gaithersburg MD 20877

Dear Ms. Forbes,

Thank you very much for your prompt reply to my telephone message regarding DeVol Funeral Home's plans for a crematorium at 14 East Deer Park Drive.

This is a summary of my husband's and my thoughts upon having recently learned of the plans of the funeral home:

We have lived in our home in Gaithersburg for over 30 years, We love the the many amenities that the city offers, especially the beautiful Parks, such a Bohrer Park and Christman Park. We are pleased by the lovely architecture of The Rio Center, as well as by the friendly atmosphere and many other attractive qualities of living in Gaithersburg.

We hope to continue to live happily in Gaithersburg for many years to come. We are, however, shocked and worried since having received information a few days ago that is of deep concern to us and to our neighbors: Namely, we learned

of plans by DeVol Funeral Home to convert a residential building on 14 East Deer Park Drive into a crematorium. This would greatly lower the quality of life in the area: It would not only lower property values, it would - more importantly - have a negative impact on the health of residents of the area. Among those most effected would be the many children and elderly people who live close to the funeral home. My husband and I live only a few homes away from the building; I am an older lady who has an autoimmune health condition. I, and others (especially children, the elderly, and others with underlying health problems), would be seriously impacted by poisons such as Mercury, and other toxins (which include cancer-causing, asthma-triggering, and also possibly autism-causing agents, as well as the ashes of dead bodies which would be generated just yards from homes).

In addition to this, I read from the gaithersburgmd.gov site that such a plan should be in the public interest, but it most certainly isn't so!

We implore you to please keep us safe: Please do not allow a crematorium near our homes and parks and schools.

Thank you for your attention to thiis matter!

Sincerely,  
Mai Liis Goggin

P.S. I've included key points, below, from a bulletin that we received recently about DeVol Funeral Home's plans to create the crematorium:

- Crematoriums are an Industrial Use in Montgomery County and have no legal place in a residential neighborhood
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- DeVol has testified that there would be a “chimney” for the crematorium. It’s not shown on the site plan they submitted. It could be 20 feet high according to other funeral directors!
- There is only one other crematorium in Montgomery County, Pumphrey Funeral Home in Downtown Bethesda. Its zoning is grandfathered from decades ago and would never be approved today.
- DeVol is misrepresenting that cremation is part of a funeral home’s operations. This is not true. It is a separately licensed service. I read from the gaithersburgmd.gov site that it is stipulated that this type of change should be "in the public interest", which most surely it is not.