

Jennifer Smith

From: Carla Lundgren
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Jennifer Smith
Subject: FW: To Hearing Examiner - Merchant input for Proposed Hotel



Carla Lundgren

Administrative Specialist

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Planning and Community Development service hours:

- Walk-in customers: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Appointments: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday-Friday

Appointments may be scheduled here: [Planning and Building Submittal Appointment Calendar](#)

From: PCD <pcd@bainbridgewa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 11:23 AM
To: Carla Lundgren <clundgren@bainbridgewa.gov>
Subject: FW: To Hearing Examiner - Merchant input for Proposed Hotel



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Planning and Community Development Service Hours

- Walk-in customers: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Appointments: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday-Friday

Appointments may be scheduled here: [Planning and Building Submittal Appointment Calendar](#)

From: susan <heartsusan@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 10:57 AM
To: PCD <pcd@bainbridgewa.gov>
Subject: To Hearing Examiner - Merchant input for Proposed Hotel

Hearing Examiner
City of Bainbridge Island
Bainbridge Island WA

November 20, 2019
(reprinted and updated Jan 14, 2020)

Dear Hearing Examiner,

I am a merchant with a business on Winslow Way for 20 years (this month!). We have a strong presence "on the street" and have two goals: to succeed as a business and to be "in community". I am at the store almost daily, day in and out. My business generates a six-figure income for my on-island family. In addition, I am pleased to have supported (in time, money, and product) dozens of community-based activities and causes, large and small. I trained as a CPA.

I have been asked to add my voice to the matter before you - the proposed Winslow Hotel. While I would like to support it and to believe that it would improve the downtown corridor of Winslow, and the Island in general, I do not.

Here are my reasons:

- I have attended several of the city committees' meetings and I conclude that this project's scale is far far beyond anything that would conform to the Comprehensive Plan, which if I understand correctly, **prioritizes live-here-work-here developments, while recognizing, promoting, and preserving its small town scale.** This is an overarching island priority, carefully considered, and alone, should disqualify this project.
- In addition to the sheer scope of the development, I believe the impact of its **related vehicle traffic has been seriously understated** and that such traffic - due to guests, vendors and safety needs - would further deteriorate to the downtown parking-sane driving-pedestrian-safety marginal arrangement we have carved out at present.
- Since the recession (2008) I have noticed quite a trend: **Tourists come "for the experience", but do not shop much - they stroll, eat, sample wine, walk with latte's and ice cream, and ask how to find a rest room, BUT ARE VERY LIGHT SHOPPERS. *This can be observed in the lack of shopping bags they are carrying as they head back to the ferry.*** I have informally surveyed this, walking up and down the street in high foot-traffic times, and found only about one bag per cluster of 30 or 40 people.
- **IT IS MY OPINION THAT, OUTSIDE OF FOOD AND DRINK, THE TOURISM WE EXPERIENCE DOES NOT GENERATE MEANINGFUL RETAIL PURCHASING THAT BOOSTS THE LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES, NOR WILL IT SAVE A STRUGGLING ONE, OR OFFSET THE IMPACT OF ONLINE PURCHASING.** SUCH AN ARGUMENT IS SPURIOUS. **In fact, it stands to reduce the very experience (small town, quaint) the tourist has come to town to experience.**

The massive re-working of the downtown corridor 5 - 6 years ago improved many features. However, it has needed - and continues to need - these things: well-sited public access washrooms with clear signage, sufficient trash removal and cleanliness, more parking options and continued good public safety presence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Susan Lawrence
Owner
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