

To the members of the Washington Zoning Commission:

I attended the Washington Zoning Commission meeting on Monday, February 27th.

I was truly disheartened by the absence of any meaningful response to ANY of the concerns raised in the many letters submitted to the ZC. Even though "Communications concerning 101 Wykeham Road" was an agenda item, The Commissioner effectively ended any discussion of their contents at the outset by stating that the ZC received many letters, but this project was approved by the 2013 settlement agreement and 2018 special permit - thus cutting off discussion of any of the serious issues raised in our letters. Similarly, "Privilege of the Floor" seems meaningless if the issues raised are not discussed.

It was also surprising that Mr. Werkhoven's only comment about the many letters sent to the ZC voicing real concerns about public safety and quality of life issues was to mention that someone wrote about a "declaration of war," which he apparently found shocking and offensive. It was my letter that he referred to, and he seized upon three words taken out of context, yet he had no comments about any of the salient points of the very same letter about traffic conditions and speeding on Wykeham Road, which is already known to be dangerous by those living in the community and which will only get far worse should the project get built as currently planned. As many of you may know, on any given day you will find pedestrians, runners, cyclists, and even parents pushing strollers up and down Wykeham. Especially in warm weather seasons. Yet no one on the ZC wants to discuss this looming public safety issue, one that has significantly increased since the sole traffic study was conducted over 15 years ago.

Equally disappointing was his admission that he did not read Margie Purnell's "40 page letter." For those who did not read it, her letter was actually only three pages, the remainder being copies of supporting documents which clearly demonstrate a lack of veracity in some of the property owner's previous declarations concerning pertinent issues in the application process.

Furthermore, upon reading the 101 Wykeham timeline which the Commissioner requested be posted (I assume because he thought it would be supportive of the ZC's approval process), I came away scratching my head as to how anyone could view this as a transparent, straight forward zoning process. "Submitted." "Withdrawn." "Submitted." "Denied". "Submitted." "Withdrawn." etc. etc. etc. for 15 years! My God!

I am told that as currently planned, this will be the largest commercial construction project in the history of Washington. How a settlement agreement negotiated behind closed doors between the property owner and the owners of two adjacent properties and the ZC got finalized without a public hearing, especially from those who would be most directly and immediately impacted, is beyond comprehension. And in an area zoned R-1, no less. At the very least, the optics of this are terrible. Especially in light of the property owner's subsequent buy-out of two other parties to the settlement. So fewer than ten people got to make decisions that will fundamentally change the very

nature of the community, putting many local residents at risk for their safety, with no meaningful public discourse.

At the end of the day, every member of the Zoning Commission's first priority should be to adhere to your regulations and protect the safety and well-being of the residents of Washington. None of us in the area feel protected or even heard.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross Bartfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ross Bartfield
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