

## Wykeham Rise

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To: Shelley White <swhite@washingtonct.org>

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Washington Zoning Commission  
c/o Shelley White

Re: Wykeham Rise proposal

Dear Commissioners,

I am a long-time resident of Washington and also maintain a business office in the Depot. As such, I care deeply about the character, quality of life and success of our community. I've tried to have a positive impact on the town and community as well thru various philanthropic involvements- I'm a long-time board member of Steep Rock Association, organized a Covid Relief fund to help local residents and businesses deal with the economic hardships of the pandemic (for which I was recognized with a commendation by the town), actively supported the capital project to provide a new headquarters and training facility to the local ambulance corp, provided support to the "Bring back the Bells" capital campaign, have consistently funded the Depot holiday lights initiative led by Michelle Gorra, and have been an active and consistent supporter of SHAG, Judy Black Park, WAA, WCF, Gunn Library and so on.

I'm concerned that the recent "reconsideration" of the application wrt Wykeham Rise- already approved by the Zoning commission subject to satisfaction of a list of technical conditions- is bad policy and sets a bad precedent for others seeking zoning approval for various projects. While I certainly believe that Zoning needs to be cognizant of the rights of residents/neighbors, its important that as a town we are viewed as a facilitator of economic growth and development, not a deterrent, if we want to continue to be a vibrant and viable community, especially in a more dynamic and competitive environment and challenging economic cycle. Its critical that business owners-existing and prospective- view Washington and a fair-minded and "pro-business" climate with a level playing field mindsight and approach. As such, any reversal of decisions that were fully vetted by the commission would not serve the town well and, in my opinion, have a lasting impact. What's more, this particular property has been in limbo for way too long and I believe has been debilitating to the immediate area on Wykeham and more generally as an eye-sore and a hung project. We need to move forward and let this project happen.

We're still underserved as a community in terms of affordable housing, hotel accommodations, restaurants and various other services that are critical to our economic vibrance and sustainability. Let's not stand in the way of progress.

I hope the commission sees the logic of this and stands behind its earlier decision.

Best,

Alan Mnuchin

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