

Dear Planning Commission Members:

I live on the 300 block of N. Columbus Street. I've been there for over a decade. I love Old Town and feel very lucky to live there.

I have a concern about the proposed construction of 5 new town homes across the street. I believe that they fail to adhere to the same BAR guidelines I've been required to follow (and certainly have followed) in order to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood and Old Town, generally.

The proposed homes will be much larger than the ones on our block and will not be differentiated in any meaningful way, and will include a huge, overwhelming façade, thus destroying the uniqueness of the block. I am not opposed to building new homes in the parking lot, but I think they should reflect the character of the homes that are on the block.

What is very distributing is that it is now very confusing to me what the BAR standards are. Despite my house having windows that were in disrepair and really didn't look good (despite a paint job), the BAR denied my request to put in new windows even though I was going to replace the original ones with new ones that would look exactly the same. I didn't want to replace them but they looked really bad and I felt that I was not living up to the standards of the neighborhood (other houses on the block were able to replace their windows). I respected the BAR's decision and did not replace them; I did the best I could to fix them up. I can't reconcile that decision with this one here. These proposed houses look so completely out of place (my new windows pale in comparison to this proposal) that I really don't understand the standards of the BAR.

I hope that we can continue our discussions of this situation.

Thank you for consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Melissa Newman