

CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Alex Goyette <alexmgoyette@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 10:16 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Opposing Items 14-16 at 10/15 Council Hearing

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Good morning,

I am writing to ask that Council reject the special use permits that would extend the use of several blocks of Del Ray by a car dealership: Items 23-0378, 23-0379, and 23-0380.

The dealership's presence in one of Alexandria's most walkable neighborhoods contradicts the community's area plan, and creates a significant dead space for anyone outside of a car. Approving these permits to expand and extend operations for several decade would be a blow against the city's goals, preventing the land from being used for a higher purpose than automobile sales and service: housing, small businesses, services that directly meet the needs of residents regardless of whether they own a Hyundai. Dedicating such a key location to car sales and service contradicts our goals of reducing carbon emissions, creating vibrant public spaces, and improving transportation options for all Alexandrians.

I wish the owners the best, but granting a further exception to allow the business to continue occupying such important land near high capacity transit and amenities would be a mistake for the neighborhood and the city. Please reject the DSUPs.

Thank you,

Alex

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Alex Goyette

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CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Elena Hutchison <ecaudle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 8:19 AM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Oppose the Hyundai SUP extensions

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Good morning - I am writing as a Del Ray resident to encourage council to oppose the extension of the Hyundai dealership SUPs in Del Ray.

By all accounts, Kevin Reilly is a model citizen and a very good neighbor - that is of course not at issue in what the city or neighborhood should be considering in this matter.

The issue is whether the right thing to do with three city blocks in the heart of the avenue is to lock them into being a car dealership with extended parking lots, for the next 20 years. And the answer to that is a clear no for me, as a Del Ray homeowner as well as a board member on the DRCA.

20 years is an absolute eternity in zoning terms. Just 12 years ago, Potomac Yard was an open field. Today it's a vibrant neighborhood with a huge tax base supporting Alexandria, plus mixed uses, virginia tech, and a metro station (which Del Ray will soon benefit from as well).

Neighbors already feel the lack of vibrancy in the center of Del Ray where these auto-based uses are located, and we are seeing businesses like the Company of Books relocate from this relative dead zone to the more vibrant ends of the neighborhood. Several neighbors spoke about this dead zone dynamic at our DRCA meeting debating this matter.

I know some neighbors are concerned about either 1. nothing wanting to build in this space, and us ending up with just empty lots or 2. ending up with mixed use buildings, possibly with lower-income housing included. On the first - I can't imagine no one can figure out something that comports with the zoning in this vibrant, popular, growing neighborhood that is about to have a metro station on each end of it - if you think that is a likely outcome, we should fix the small area plan, not lock in a different problem for 20 years! On the second - BRING IT. We need more homes here to support the demand, to diversify and grow our tax base, and to allow the people who serve this neighborhood (like our teachers) to also live here.

Alexandria (and Del Ray) shouldn't miss this opportunity to advance a large step toward the small area plan vision of a walkable, vibrant, mixed use Mt. Vernon Ave.

Elena Hutchison
105 E. Randolph

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