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**Sent:** Saturday, June 3, 2023 5:04 PM

**To:** Molly Lambert <molly.lambert@alexandriava.gov>

**Cc:** Alexa N Powell <alexa.powell@alexandriava.gov>; Mary Christesen

<Mary.Christesen@alexandriava.gov>; Antoine D Pierce <antoine.pierce@alexandriava.gov>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]Comment on 415 North Patrick Street request for variance

I am a neighbor of the applicant for this variance and wish to submit these comments anonymously.

The applicant has not demonstrated good faith as a neighbor in that the open parking area of the property is rather unkempt. It is indeed an owner's right to keep their property however they wish, but a good neighbor considers others around them. Neighbors who share the alley with the applicant keep the portions of their properties that are in public view tidy and the objects that they are responsible for within their boundaries.

With this in mind, the proposed structure brings into question what the applicant will do with the four trash cans—two for garbage and two for recycling—that have a permanent location on a neighboring property. Will the receptacles be housed in new structure the applicant wishes to construct? Seemingly the new building will abut the alley with no open space for them.

The lack of any open space may also cause issues for vehicles driving through the alley. Will trash trucks or other service vehicles have enough room? I am not speaking of wheels driving across the owner's property but of wide vehicle parts, such as side mirrors, that may traverse the space over the property.

Will the actual construction of the building block public right of way and interfere with those who drive and walk through the alley? If so, then should not the structure plans be revised to push the building footprint to the west, allowing some space between it and the alley?

As to the obvious concern surrounding the proposed building: the structure will alter the aesthetic that is Old Town Alexandria.

I respect the applicant's right to alter their property, but only if that is done within the well-established zoning standards for Old Town. My thinking is if an owner—any owner, myself included—wants to increase the number of structures on their property in a way that requires a variance, then that owner should purchase a property in an area that does not require one.

I respectfully request the variance be denied.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows