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Speaker Slip for 3/26 --- or not

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To: "electedofficials@bexley.org" <electedofficials@bexley.org>

Dear Mayor and Elected Officials:

As you know, there are many concerns about ordinance amendment 04-24 that the city wants to make mainly because of the underlying lack of transparency and the dishonest premise of the root motive. The Bexley Buzz was used as a public media outlet two weeks ago to condemn anyone challenging the low income housing projects as racists. We have been told that this ordinance change has nothing to do with the lower income housing, yet on the "payroll" and on the record Catherine Cunningham stood stated that she was making changes to this ordinance so it would read the way the courts told her it needed to read after the city was sued for violating its own laws in an attempt to force a low income housing development of ridiculous density, in a crime ridden and traffic safety area. College and Livingston held up traffic this morning with a serious accident. Nothing is better there.

I imagine based on the information provided before the final appeal by the City, that the taxpayer expense of this issue is now well north of \$100,000. If we are not changing it to allow the builders to bring this back up then why change it? You don't need this ordinance to pay area businesses for right of way to put in sidewalks that by the Livingston Plan are twice as wide as anywhere else in the city. History has shown that, you(our City government) will not make Livingston safer or cleaner.

As I mentioned on the record, if you really wanted residents to understand what is being changed, it would not have required pulling up the old ordinance and attempting to logically cross-check it with the proposed one. The new one would state clearly what is being changed. The secret sauce in 04-24 is giving a Mayor appointed BZAP even more leeway on their decisions vs. having concrete guidance for them to follow and for neighbors to understand what a builder or homeowner wants to change.

There is physical evidence from the last 24 +/- months that show city council not understanding her laws and ability to abide by the "rules" of BZAP, it's leader and enforcement of directions and ordinances. Hidden to the average resident in 04-24 is changing the way things read for BZAP from they must consider these things when ruling to they may consider these items listed. 04-24 essentially removes any criteria for consideration other than what BZAP selects as acceptable use. We are allowing non-elected officials to make substantial changes to the city with no repercussions. Why not change the ordinance to make it more clear on when and why BZAP can approve something? Why are making it vaguer?

Councilman Marcelino told me that in spite of the comments 15 of 17 in the third reading with grave concern and opposition to 04-24 --- Council has had zero discussion and zero changes or modifications. Is that TRUE? Hell, why was it tabled to begin with? Transparency? Was the purpose to let residents fall asleep at the wheel and forget that it was rising from the tabled state?

Catherine Cunningham told me that she wanted the code changed years ago. She also indicated that the Livingston parcel will require a brand new conditional use permit even with 04-24 since it was originally CS, then it must go through the ARB timeline, the BZAP timeline, back to Council, etc. It certainly would appear that 04-24, by changing BZAP rules, is hyperfocused on low income housing in a terribly unsafe area in ridiculous density with little

consideration of parking, playground, crime and property value depreciation.

In a discussion I had with a Franklin County Sherriff's officer this past weekend, he laughed at the lies (TCB) stated to residents about crime, parking, safety and the like with low income projects of this size and scope.

I am not speaking on March 26, mainly because of my recent email discussion with Councilman Marcelino. His indication was Council truly listened to the comments of residents, but had no discussion due to sunshine laws; the Council and/or hired Counsel made not one change to the ordinance as a result of the resident comments; and yet by interacting with me and answering my questions, Council was positively engaging and considering the wishes of it's residents.

Such sentiment would indicate that Council will do as Council wishes, so anyone that values their time would choose Family over City Hall on March 26.

In closing, if you actually read this whole email, I graciously thank you for your time!

Joel

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