

To Whom it May concern,

Regarding: Public Hearing Notice for Bylaw 24-24

Land Use Redesignation (Lots 25-37. Block F, Plan 1420L (149 Elizabeth Street)

My name is Gary Cooke and I live at [REDACTED] with my wife Chantelle and our son [REDACTED]. We have lived in Okotoks in the same house since 1996 which we have renovated and improved and cared for, for the past 28 years.

We know our neighbors and help one another when we can.

It is frustrating when the same ideas are brought forth, that have been rejected in the past.

Approximately 15 years ago there was a motion brought forth to allow a muffler shop across the street from our residence which is zoned residential. To rezone this to General Commercial will lead to an increase in noise pollution, an increase in traffic and lack of parking along with a possibility of decreased property values. The town needs to put in place traffic calming measures on this street, not make it worse.

Most people living on Elizabeth Street are long time property owners who purchased their properties with the knowledge of the current zoning across the street and to change this to commercial would be unfair to those owners.

It is interesting that it was not stated what such a small lot is to accommodate, there is barely enough room for a building let alone parking, and the fact it is zoned traditional neighborhood, and a portion of lot is also designated downtown district yet the request is for it to be all changed to Commercial district, this can not bode well for anyone who lives in the neighborhood.

I talked to a couple of neighbors who knew nothing about this motion, and how it could adversely affect the neighborhood that they have decided to live their lives and raise their children. Please do not believe, if there is a lack of response that this is due to a lack of interest. I know a few neighbors that are responding to this bylaw, and it is my belief that we speak for most landowners.

There are many commercially designated areas in town, please do not change a neighborhood that has been growing and updating our homes with the belief that this is where we will raise our children and grow old. A neighborhood that is within walking distance to a downtown which the town has been labouring away at making a place people want to visit. A neighborhood that people pass through from Mountain View to go and visit and shop downtown, don't allow anymore commercial buildings to dull the beauty that the downtown core is trying to accomplish don't let the need of one effect the needs and wants of the many.

Sincerely,

Gary Cooke