

From: [OC](#)
To: [Dianne Massa](#)
Subject: Northville Downs Development
Date: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 3:08:46 PM

Dear Members of City Council

Due to a medical issue, I am unable to attend this vitally important meeting regarding the future of Northville in person. Let that not be mistaken for apathy!

I have previously written to the mayor and city Council about my deep and abiding concerns around this development. This will change the face of Northville forever. It will cut off downtown completely which is the heart and soul of Northville, providing opportunities for community, family outings, dining, shopping and the heartbeat of our community.

I believe this development is irresponsible on multiple levels, deliberately and willfully allowing money to literally bulldoze local cherished values in favor of cash.

The scope this development does not seem to align with protection of our natural resources, the historic character of Downtown, or building a lasting legacy of thoughtful and prudent use of the most irreplaceable asset Northville has.

I live on East Cady Street, and I completely agree with Mr. Daily's Assessment of the increased traffic volume that exists already on Cady, Church and Hutton Streets. Church Street can be a pain to navigating an obstacle course already, given both the pedestrian traffic and the automobile traffic in that short block. Can be a pain to navigating an obstacle course already, given both the pedestrian traffic and the automobile traffic in that short block which includes the Presbyterian Church and Starbucks.

If this development proceeds, we will be left with the shambles of seriously congested roads, the fracturing of the core of Northville, the responsibility for increasing local temperatures by cementing over the green space, increased pollution, increased noise, a complete loss of charm, character, historical context and the evaporation of a vibrant, forward-thinking future for our community.

What happens with The Downs will become a lesson for other small towns and enclaves around the country, for better or for worse. So why don't we take the leadership role, and write a history that is a beacon for historic communities, that charts an integrated course, not simply balancing progress with history, but integrating Northville's history to design aspirational, progressive momentum that ensures the vitality of this community for generations?

Let other towns look to our choices with admiration and appreciation for the care taken with our resources. Let them find their paths by the honest diligence and hard work done here of leveraging our finest ideas on the fulcrum of history to create a wildly amazing future? Why not?

Lastly, please feel free to read my letter at the meeting tonight since I cannot be in attendance to represent my perspective. If that's not possible, I would like it to be part of the official records somehow. Many thanks.

With respect and hope,

O.C. O'Connell
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