

For many years families have moved to Spokane Valley for its great schools, lovely safe neighborhoods, clean streets, easy traffic, and friendly culture.

While looking at my neighbors today, I can tell you the only part that hasn't changed is the friendly culture.

Schools are overcrowded and have declining budgets, our safe neighborhoods are being over developed with apartment building and businesses encroaching into single family communities, homelessness is growing faster than our city and we are experiencing a large property crime wave, and in a area where bumper to bumper traffic was a myth for more than 100 years our traffic wait times have doubled for more than 4 years in a row.

We are all living in a time of unprecedented and uncontrolled growth, and our neighborhood firmly believes that this remains the greatest challenge to our City's health and future that we have faced since our founding. Who is standing for our community? For our neighborhoods? For our kids? Certainly not elected officials who have passed laws making it possible for detox facilities to be located in residential areas. Today we answer: we have to look out for ourselves, and negotiate the best deal we can.

Our Neighborhood is fortunate today only in that the applicant company, Sequoia Detox has been willing to sit down with us, listen to our concerns, and address them. Through negotiation, public meetings, and community feedback our neighborhood and Sequoia have reached an agreement about the requirements that we feel address the needs and concerns of the residents who live in the proposed area. We have done this ourselves, its unconscionable that the city would have known about this so long without telling the very people who would be affected.

Sequoia, and its CEO, have for their part been reasonable, willing to listen, and generous with the community. They have shown themselves to be good community members for our city (though we still wish they could have been located somewhere else).

Today, we would like to ask, jointly with Sequoia for two important considerations:

1. That the terms of our memorandum of understand be appended to the Hearing Examiner's finding as condition to the conditional use permit.
2. That the Hearing Examiner, as part of their finding, state that this conditional use permit is a special circumstance that in no way should be used to justify other commercial enterprises within the Ponderosa, south of Dishman Mica.

These two actions would represent the bear minimum our local government could do in this situation to respect the community building work that we, together with Sequoia, have done, and show concern for our worries and our neighborhood.

Finally, we would like to close by saying that the model of speaking with neighborhoods and building communities that Sequoia and our neighborhood have used here should be the model for ongoing development in our city going forward. For too long, our neighborhoods have had to live under the fear of being bulldozed, both literally through development and figuratively through neither the city nor

developers listening to our valid concerns about safety, property values, infrastructure, schools, and the future of our city.

Our City leaders should be helping to build bridges between developers and present citizens and planning for the best interest of our city, not hanging back and leaving neighborhoods to fend for themselves. They failed this time... Consider this notice.