

Rad Dickson, Planner in Charge
c/o El Paso County Planning and Community Development and County Commissioners
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Dear Honorable County Commissioners and Planners,

I (we) the undersigned object to rezoning 12740 Black Forest Rd from A-5 to CC-5 for these reasons:

- 1) **THE LEGAL BASIS.** The owner proposes 2 office buildings totaling 12,300 SF to accommodate his wholesale business on a lot that is surrounded on all sides by residences. Section 3.2.5 of the Land Development Code stipulates that CC (Commercial Community) zoning is *“intended to accommodate retail sales and service establishments that generally require freestanding or small center type buildings and that primarily serve adjoining neighborhoods.”* Approval of this zoning change would be the result of making an exception to the law for the benefit of an individual, to the exclusion of the desires of the Black Forest community-at-large.
- 2) **THE BLACK FOREST PRESERVATION PLAN,** part of the El Paso County Master Plan, lists these restrictions: section 4.1 *“Restrict new commercial uses within the forested (also defined as small and large meadows) and low density residential areas to existing or proposed commercial nodes as defined in the approved Land Use Scenario and Concept Plan”*, 4.3 *“Limit commercial activities within the forested and low density residential planning units to those which accommodate the needs of local residents”*, and 4.5 *“Discourage commercial uses if they are incompatible with existing or planned residential development.”* The plan specifically cites that commercial zoning should be in the form of *“neighborhood commercial facilities”* specializing in **retail sales and services**, not wholesale businesses which do not benefit the public at large. Its Land Use Scenario Section 1 pp4 states *“The community and commercial centers”* (the nodes at Black Forest and Shoup Roads, and Black Forest and Burgess Roads) *“should not significantly expand. New commercial and community uses within these centers should be CONTIGUOUS to existing uses.”* Since there are at least 3 lots zoned RR-5 between the historic Community Center node and this property, **it is not contiguous to any commercial node**, nor does it pass the litmus test of *“retail sales and service establishments that serve adjoining neighborhoods”*.
- 3) **WHOLESALE BUSINESS.** In a 6-page letter addressed to “Black Forest Residents”, but apparently sent only to the 12 properties that completely surround this lot on its north, south, east, and west borders Rob Haddock, the property's owner, admits on page 3 pp3 (quote) *“you should be proud as peacocks to have our corporate HQ in your neighborhood”*, and on page 3 pp5 (quote) *“we sell nothing from this location. We have NO walk-in or retail business traffic.”* Sources inside Haddock's company, S-5! Metal Roof Innovations, have also confirmed that **it sells only to its distributors in 34 countries.** This company's “wholesale” status disqualifies the rezoning.
- 4) **FACT OR BRAVADO?** In the letter mentioned above Haddock states (quote) *“It has been pre-destined by that authority (County Planning) many years ago for re-zoning to select commercial use. This is not a ‘maybe’ – it is well-established and allowable. So commercial use seems rather imminent. The only thing really at question is whether a quiet and tasteful facility that looks like a residence and fits into the landscape and persona of its surrounds get built there, or a ‘Kum-an-Go’ (sic) instead.”* Hopefully this is bravado, not a promise made to him.
- 5) **OUR SANCTUARIES.** Allowing this or any other Black Forest property to be improperly rezoned infringes on the sensibilities of every Black Forest resident and goes against the understanding of and reliance on the very nature of Black Forest when we, or our ancestors, bought or rebuilt our sanctuaries here.

Dated this day the 26 of Oct 2020

Sincerely,

Barry Baird, Sue Baird

Name(s)

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Address

Phone (optional)