Miranda Benson2

From: Sarah <skyungmcpherson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2023 10:16 AM

To: Holly Williams; Cami Bremer; Longinos Gonzalez, Jr; Stan VanderWerf; Carrie Geitner

Cc: Hello@coloradokidsranch.com

Subject: Plea on Behalf of Colorado Pumpkin Patch

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Dear Commissioners,

It has been brought to my attention Colorado Pumpkin Patch may be shut down due to neighbor complaints. I'm writing on the behalf of this farm with a plea to not close this wonderful spot in our community.

I understand neighbors do not like the traffic and the fact they feel a loss of privacy during the farm's peak season. But the place is seasonal. Colorado Pumpkin Patch is not running community events everyday of the year. When I have visited this farm with my own family, the noise seems minimal due to the size of the farm. Customers are well distributed on the farm. It doesn't feel crowded. The parking is adequate and when I've been there, there's extra parking available on the Chapman's actual land (not on the road). As a neighborhood perk, the farm is aesthetically beautiful. Everytime, I drive by as a local resident, I see a well cared for farm. No run down fields or machinery. Their animals look well nourished and have plenty of land to live on. The Chapman's do not know who I am, but everytime I've interacted with people from this family on their farm or at the El Paso County fair, they seem incredibly real, respectful, and considerate members of society. Their children (some whom are working this farm/patch) are what most parents hope their children would be like in heart and action as budding citizens of our city, state, and country. We have alot to learn from them. Why remove this inspiration from our community because of seasonal car traffic or annoyance over the fact a family has ambitions and refuse to let their land lie fallow?

Another reason I believe Colorado Pumpkin Patch should be allowed to remain as a family resource in our community is the fact Monument is a family place. There is a mix of ages in our population, a big one being families. We all know post-covid, families, especially children in our community need opportunities to be built emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Children are screen-free and presented wholesome connection to our world and community through places such as this pumpkin patch. Parents, grandparents, and guardians are encouraged to be better people when in places such as a pumpkin patch, rather alone in a house with children that may be especially exhausting to them because they feel distant from community.

Additionally, Colorado Pumpkin Patch has provided job opportunities to teens and young people in our community. What a great place to learn how to work and be successful members of society. We all know children want community as much as we adults do. What a healthy place to build positive work ethic and friendship at Colorado Pumpkin Patch. Who knows how many teens have avoided depression or learned healthier coping mechanisms by having a job at this farm.

Finally, I believe it's a right for home owners to work their land and pursue a living in a respectable way in our society. They aren't in a HOA that prohibits a farm opening its doors to the community. Let's be careful to not forget our roots, our great-grandparents and ancestors, many of whom lived close to the earth and worked hard to make life a better place for their families and communities. Technology is changing ground in America and though much for the good, also for the worse. Let's keep our farms alive and our community connected to farm ways and life.

Sincerely,

Sarah McPherson