
Opposition to Costco Proposal

1 message

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To: Kenneth Kovalchik <kovalchikk@togny.org>

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Ken,

I am writing to record my vehement opposition to the proposal to build a Costco on the site off of Western Avenue. I am not opposed to Costco, but at that location. The structure would be disproportionately large for a parcel of that size and inclusion of a gasoline station at a time when the country is moving towards renewable energy including vehicles is just simply wrong. As all reasonable people point out, the resultant intensifying of the already traffic congestion along that portion of Western Avenue would make it unbearable. Before my retirement, I recall looking out of our office on the corner of Alton Ave. at the west bound traffic between 4:00 and 6:00 pm and seeing that it was stopped even to the east of the Mobil station.

It is my continuing position that Crossgates, a city unto itself, should be surrounded by a green buffer to shield it from Western Avenue including reestablishment of a green space east of the hotels, and to clear cut the land before the completion of environmental study in just plain arrogance on the part of Pyramid. I recall that when expansion was proposed in 1998, that all of it was proposed within the ring road, not outside as now being advanced for the apartments and Costco. Just as I proposed previously regarding the apartments, Costco should and could be contained within the ring road. There is sufficient unused parking lot space that could be utilized. In addition, just yesterday, there was a report in the newspaper that J. C. Penny (and Neiman Marcus) could soon file for Chapter 11. If this were to happen, the space now occupied by J.C. Penny could be repurposed and reconfigured for Costco. Any and all efforts should be made to contain the Crossgates traffic within the ring road with the major entrance and exit located off the end of the Northway and Washington Ave. Ext., not Western Avenue. The 1998 proposal included consideration of widening the ring road and the ramps to and from the Northway extension. This should be implemented with the inclusion of a Costco on the current Crossgates footprint.

You have no doubt received supporting letters as promoted by the so-called 'smart growth for Guilderland'. Make no mistake, no one is fooled into believing that this is a grassroots organization. It is an astroturf, pure and simple. The people and leadership of grassroots organizations are known and are in plain sight. Groups such as FORCE (Friends Organized to Reject Crossgates Expansion), The McKownville Improvement Association, and of course GCRG attend and speak up at meetings. They don't hide behind some fictitious front. Those people attracted to the Facebook page in support of Costco are not Guilderland residents. They don't live in the area. They don't have to contend with the traffic mess in order to get home. They don't have to listen to the police sirens constantly answering calls at Crossgates.

This proposal is the definition of poor planning. This is not what attracts people to live in Guilderland. Someone has to talk sense into Pyramid. We do not have to sacrifice the town in order to through their corporation a life preserver.

Regards,

Frank Casey