
Crossgates Development

1 message

Susan Zautner <szautner26@gmail.com>

Mon, May 18, 2020 at 9:27 AM

To: Kovalchikk@togny.org

Dear Mr. Kovalchik –

I am writing to voice my support for the development at Crossgates. I have lived in Guilderland for over 30 years, and in fact, I only live 1 mile from Crossgates. I own a two family home, have raised two children in the Guilderland school district and now have seen one grandchild graduate from GHS and another has just started his first year as a kindergartner at Westmere Elementary. I have had various family members work at Crossgates in different capacities, even as recently as two months ago. When I first moved to this area, I lived in a townhome development, which at the time, was the newest and best in the town. After that, I moved to a couple of other developments across town, and then settled in with my own home on Church Road 20 years ago.

I am proud to have such a great mall like Crossgates right in my backyard...it was one of the first places I went to when we moved to the area originally, and since then has remained one of my favorites. It has brought so much opportunity to those in the town, the county and region as a whole. It has grown to be the place that it needs to be in order to survive and thrive, adding on entertainment and dining, to ensure that it will survive. Shopping malls that don't do that, don't tend to make it. And we need Crossgates to make it, especially now, for sake of the property taxes, school taxes and county tax alone. I don't think that people understand the repercussions if we were to ever lose Crossgates and its proposed development. The Guilderland superintendent said not too long ago that we need to find \$1 million for our school budgets...when this project alone will add on almost \$500,000 in tax revenue, why would we say no to that?

As a grandmother who has a grandson that is heading off to a local college, and then hopes to settle down here in this town on his own at some point afterwards, the apartments that they are looking to build makes so much sense to me. The location would be perfect for a young person that needs to travel via CDTA, bike or even walk to get to where they need to. And in my eyes, we need new apartment developments like this in the town...when once can say that the majority of the apartments are 30+ years old, it's time to reinvest in our town.

With the uncertainty that we are all facing, with the COVID-19 crisis, we need this. When there is the chance of a nationally known retailer, and one of the best at that, that wants to settle in our town and help with what could be a very long recovery, why would we want them to be anywhere else? People talk about the traffic that Western Avenue sees, but I travel that portion of Western a few times daily to get to and from my office, and this is not "traffic". Waiting a few minutes at a traffic light is normal and it happens everywhere. This part of town was made for businesses anyways, and we could stand to have more of them. And this business will help all of those around it. I've seen the letters from various people that support this, and when other businesses inside the mall and outside the mall support it, why wouldn't we as residents? We always say support local....local means supporting our town and our county, regardless of whether they are national or a mom & pop.

I fully support the plans laid out and hope that it comes to life.

Thank you –
Sue Zautner
Church Road