

December 7, 2015

Dear City of Goodyear and Compass Church;

We, the residents of Wade Acres, are writing this letter to document our objection for the request from Compass Church as it pertains to Case Number 15-300-00003. The majority (18 out of 22 households) of the residents of Wade Acres oppose the removal of Stipulation # 8- *No vehicular ingress or egress from 161st Avenue shall be provided except for the purpose of emergency fire access.*

We strongly oppose any amendments to the original and existing Use Permits for Compass Church. The majority of the residents of Wade Acres opposes and rejects any plans to amend the permit to allow additional traffic onto 161st Ave. This opposition is due to the following:

1. An original promise was made to residents of Wade Acres with respect to using 161st Ave for emergency vehicle access only.
2. The exit onto Van Buren from 161st is the only access point for the residents of the area. An increase in traffic will result in blocking individuals entering and exiting the community, particularly during high traffic time.
3. The safety of our community members particularly children and seniors as a result of added vehicles driving down our neighborhood and making illegal U-turns onto our driveways to get back onto Van Buren. Our neighborhood has no sidewalks; therefore, our residents must walk on the road. Furthermore, emergency vehicles need to be able to quickly and safely access our residents in the event of an emergency.
4. The church can access their nine (9) acres of land as additional parking or exit/entrance onto Van Buren St. through the APS entrance which was granted to them originally in the first permit.

Timeline of Events:

- In 1999, when Compass church applied for a permit to build their church. The following stipulation was put in place:
Stipulation # 8- No vehicular ingress or egress from 161st Avenue shall be provided except for the purpose of emergency fire access; was added to the contract.
At the planning meetings neighbors expressed concern of the traffic and safety of the community. It was stated that 161st Ave is the only entrance/exit for citizens on Wade Acres. Among other things both the current church leaders and city promised residents that 161st Ave would not be used as an entrance/exit onto the church property.
- In 2003, when the church applied for a permit allowing for the childcare facility on the premises of compass church Stipulation # 8- *No vehicular ingress or egress from 161st Avenue shall be provided except for the purpose of emergency fire access;* remained in the Use Permit.

At this time the church agreed to not use 161st Ave for church purposes. Stipulation # 27 and # 28 were added.

Stipulation # 27 states- *The applicant shall provide appropriate signage for 161st Ave, such signage shall be determined prior to site plan approval.*

At this time there are NO signs posted on 161st.

At the September 22, Councilmember Frank Cavalier said, "he is not in opposition to what the church wants to do or the daycare facility, but has concerns he is letting the people down. When they were annexed in, promises were made that we would keep it nice and would not do anything to bring the activity to this area of traffic and congestion, which has large acre lots-horse properties. He noted that he didn't realize we would be considering this much traffic and for this reason will vote against it."

The neighbors of Wade Acres agree with Mr. Cavalier's sentiments and would like to state that the same issues are still valid today. The added traffic that the church intends to add is a concern as well as the safety of the residents.

A verbal agreement was made between the leader of the church and the residents of Wade Acres that congregation members would not park along 161st Ave. This agreement made in good faith as good neighbors has not been upheld. The residents of Wade Acres believe this is evidence that the church will not uphold their agreement to ensure the entry/exit point will only be open during church activities.

- In 2015, the church again asked for an amendment to the Use Permit. This proposed amendment would remove the Emergency Vehicle Only restriction for the entrance at the northwest corner of the site and allow any vehicle to enter/exit at this location.

At the October 27 meeting, only two residents were present at the meeting because timely notification of such meeting was not given to all residents. The meeting was to take place on Tuesday and postcard notification did not arrive in the mail until Friday after the meeting was held. The two residents in attendance stated their concerns and opposition to such amendment.

At the November 18 meeting, eight households were represented to oppose an amendment. Seven households spoke in opposition to the amendment. A petition was given to the city with 13 out of 22 households expressing opposition. One man in the October 27, 2015 meeting represented two households also opposed. So 16 out of the 22 houses oppose an amendment.

From November 18 through December 3 the church has contacted several residents expressing to buy them Starbucks and discuss one-on-one the issues.

On December 4, a postcard came in the mail for a meeting on December 8.

Conclusion

We continue to oppose the proposed amendment. We would also like to submit as further evidence the following:

- Video of traffic on Van Buren and parking on 161st
- Photos to address traffic and safety concerns
- Additional neighbors that oppose the amendment for a total of 18 out of 22 households in opposition. Two more households wrote a statement to express their objections. And one of the households that opposes this amendment is also a member of the church and have emailed the pastor directly and met with him to voice their concerns.
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- This letter to document resident concerns and suggestions.

We, the residents of Wade Acres, would like to state the following requests:

- Keep Stipulation # 8 in the Use of Permit- *No vehicular ingress or egress from 161st Avenue shall be provided excepts for the purpose of emergency fire access;*
- The church to start being good neighbors and keep their promises that were made at the original planning meeting.
- Timely notifications to ALL Wade Acres residents of any further plans or amendments requested by the church or neighboring commercial development.
- Signage to be posted or the curb painted red that there is no parking from the corner of 161st Ave and Van Buren and north up to where the church property ends
- The church to refrain from contacting individual neighbors to resolve issues one-on-one.
- There is no need for a variance. The church can access their 9 acres of land as additional parking or exit/entrance onto Van Buren St. through the APS entrance which was granted to them originally in the first permit.
- The church to invest in police officers to direct traffic onto Van Buren for their parishioners during high traffic hours.
- The great majority of residents disapprove the proposal of the church (18 out of 22 homes). The city and church should honor and consider the wishes of the residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this urgent matter.

Residents of Wade Acre