

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 4:38 PM
To: Burwell Ware
Cc: Colleen Willger; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; Laura Selmer; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh
Subject: RE: petition to regulate fast-food drive-throughs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Agenda Packet Process

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
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From: Burwell Ware [mailto:captioning@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 3:39 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: petition to regulate fast-food drive-throughs

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About two years ago, I received an e-mail from the town. Three sentences piqued my attention: "Developer Northwood Ravin announced this week that Starbucks Coffee will be among the first commercial tenants in the 55-acre mixed-use [Carraway] neighborhood. A freestanding Chick-Fil-A restaurant is planned for a 1.5-acre, adjacent lot." "Both also will have drive-through service; up to five drive-throughs are allowed under the project's permit." Since that time, Chick-Fil-A

and Starbucks have opened their drive-throughs, but the other three have not materialized. While I believe that drive-throughs are OK during a pandemic, the town has been opposed to new drive-throughs for environmental reasons for many years, and I support that.

As a resident of Chapel Hill since 1987, I have been opposed to new drive-throughs since I learned that Chapel Hill requires a special use permit to build one. Chapel Hill and Carrboro have had an enlightened view of drive-throughs since the early days, and I support each town fully on this matter. Discouraging new drive-throughs improves air quality since drivers typically do not turn off their engines when they're waiting in line at drive-throughs. An idling car produces significantly greater pollution than does one that is running at highway speeds, and this includes carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and oxides of nitrogen. While it's generally not considered to be a greenhouse gas, carbon monoxide, a component of internal combustion engine exhaust, is toxic. The Carraway drive-throughs were overlooked by the town council when the special use permit was approved, and I feel that the town should have a new method to regulate drive-throughs since the special use permit method has proven to be ineffective.

While a drive-through ban would benefit drivers since it saves gas, an outright ban does not serve the community during a pandemic. Therefore I think that the best way to regulate them is to charge a large permitting fee to those businesses that have them but to waive the fee during a pandemic. If drive-throughs put existing businesses without drive-throughs at a disadvantage, they are obviously bad for existing businesses. And of course, fast-food drive-throughs are major sources of litter. The Sunrise Biscuit Kitchen's drive-through is very popular, but it causes back-ups on Franklin Street Street, and this is dangerous.

Please see "An Evaluation of the Effects of Drive-Through Configurations on Air Quality at Fast Food Restaurants" (<https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/an-evaluation-of-the-effects-of-drivethrough-configurations-on-airquality-at-fast-food-restaurants-2165-784X-1000235.php?aid=74917>) and "Fast Food's Litter Legacy" (<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2011/06/mcdonalds-starbucks-fast-food-litter/>).

According to a *Daily Tar Heel* article, Carrboro Mayor Damon Seils says, "...drive-throughs just aren't conducive to pedestrian oriented areas." "They create conflicts with pedestrians, and they're really more important in car-oriented areas."

When I first saw the MLK Walgreen's prescription drive-through, I was taken aback. Then I realized that this use of a drive-through might keep sick people out of the store, and from a public-health standpoint, that might be OK, even though a drive-through is not great to receive drug consultation. I realize that many people find fast-food drive-throughs convenient, but I do not think that convenience outweighs the public health.

I therefore petition the council to charge a large permitting fee to those fast-food businesses that have them but to waive the fee during a pandemic. The council might consider charging the permitting fee to all businesses with drive-throughs. Please let me know what you think of my petition.

Sincerely,
Burwell Ware

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