

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 10:47 AM
To: mariatpalmer@gmail.com
Cc: Colleen Willger; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; James Baker; Laura Selmer; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: FW: Say NO to drive-through restaurant at U Place
Attachments: NO to a drive-through-Chick-fil-A_.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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
Office Assistant
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Maria Teresa Unger Palmer <mariatpalmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2022 10:42 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Cc: City & State Desk <city@dailytarheel.com>
Subject: Say NO to drive-through restaurant at U Place

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Dear Town Council Members,

You are in the process of approving the construction of a Chick-Fil-A restaurant in what used to be the K&W Cafeteria at University Place. This is happening without any consultation with the church next door or the many groups that use the Binkley Church facilities. In fact, it appears that permission has been already granted to the owners of University Place in a "confidential" meeting closed to the public.

Has the Town Council considered how allowing a drive-through fast-food chain to build a facility in the geographic center of our town challenges our commitment to combat climate change? How is a drive-through restaurant, bringing more idling cars and toxic fumes consistent with this commitment? Not to mention the effect this will have on the proposed Farmer's Market visitors and the children playing next door (at the two Binkley preschool programs) who will have to inhale the toxic fumes.

As a former Council Member I'm wondering WHY we are allowing this violation of our policy against drive-throughs. While I served on Council we granted ONE exception, for the CVS pharmacy at Ram's Plaza, and we did so cautiously, because pharmacists and doctors told us that sick people were often either unable to get their medication or would put their sick children and others at risk when they came into the pharmacy to pick up prescriptions. They also mentioned elderly folks, and those with disabilities. We did this before the pandemic, when delivery services in town were almost non-existent and expensive. I'm not sure we would have voted for this if there had been curb-pick-up and delivery back then.

Chick-fil-A does NOT warrant an exemption to Town rules. Not only can folks in town order for delivery, there is a drive-through Chick-fil-A on Eubanks road for anyone who argues their quality of life demands access to a drive-through chicken sandwich.

If a sign goes up on the 15-501 exit advertising a Chick-Fil-A, it will attract thousands of folks driving through who will realize too late that they will have to drive into town in search of their meal. Their main contribution to our economy will be pollution and traffic. When there is a drive-through, patrons do NOT get out of their cars and go into the mall to shop. They are driving THROUGH.

How will the investment we made in improving the intersection of Ephesus Church Rd. and 15-501 (hundreds of thousands of dollars) be affected if you allow a drive-through? Cyclists and pedestrians using the new paths will contend with increasing numbers of impatient drivers looking to quickly find their food, not to mention those making U-turns when they think they missed it! During "peak hours" when people are pulling off the highway looking for lunch or dinner, it will become as congested as it is in front of St. Thomas Moore after school.

Permitting a drive-through Chick-fil-A at University Place will not enhance the quality of life of Chapel Hill residents and will negatively affect the walkability and bike-ability of the BlueHill district, putting pedestrians and bikers in danger. If the safety of bikers and pedestrians is truly a priority, then it cannot be permitted. If climate change is a priority, it cannot be permitted. If children and customers' health is a priority, it cannot be permitted.

Sincerely,

Maria

cc: DTH

Maria T Palmer
303 Forbush Mtn. Dr.

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

SAY NO TO A CHICK-fil-A DRIVE THROUGH
An open letter to the Chapel Hill Town Council,
By Maria T. Palmer

A Town of Chapel Hill board is in the process of reviewing plans for the construction of a drive-through Chick-Fil-A restaurant in what used to be the K&W Cafeteria at University Place. This is happening without any consultation with the church next door or the many groups that use the Binkley Church facilities. In fact, it appears that "permission is not needed" as the original Special Use Permit (SUP) for University Mall (now University Place) had SIX drive-throughs as part of their original permit. Most of these were used by the banks formerly located in the property.

Mayor Hemminger and our Town Council have to find a way to stop the fast-food drive-through in the geographic center of our town How is a drive-through restaurant, bringing more idling cars and toxic fumes consistent with our commitment to combat climate change? Not to mention the effect this will have on the proposed Farmer's Market visitors and the children playing next door (at the two Binkley preschool programs) who will have to inhale the toxic fumes.

As a former Council Member I was wondering WHY we are allowing this violation of our policy against drive-throughs. While I served on Council we granted ONE exception, for the CVS pharmacy at Ram's Plaza, and we did so cautiously, because pharmacists and doctors told us that sick people were often unable to get their medication or put their sick children and others at risk coming inside the drug stores. We did this before the pandemic, when delivery services in town were almost non-existent and expensive. I'm not sure it would have been approved if there had been curbside pick-up and delivery back then.

If a sign goes up on the 15-501 exit advertising a Chick-Fil-A, it will attract thousands of folks driving through who will realize too late that they will have to drive into town in search of their meal. Their main contribution to our economy will be pollution and traffic. When there is a drive-through, patrons do NOT get out of their cars and go into the mall to shop. They are driving THROUGH.

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So I reached out to my Council members. I quickly found out some feel powerless to act, as the SUP mentioned above permits a drive-through. However, we elected some of the most creative people in our community and a

mayor who manages to find a way (for example, to buy the Legion Rd. property), even when millions are needed and contracts are already in the works.

The owners of University Place are making significant changes, including a new development that was NOT part of their original SUP. They can't have it both ways, demanding use of their original SUP permits, which were granted before we were aware of the DIRE CLIMATE CRISIS, while demanding new permits and more buildings. Permitting a drive-through Chick-fil-A at University Place will not enhance the quality of life of Chapel Hill residents and will negatively affect the walkability and bike-ability of the BlueHill district, putting pedestrians and bikers in danger.

If pedestrian and biker safety is truly a priority, then this new drive-through from 15-501 cannot be permitted. If climate change is a priority, it cannot be permitted. If children and customers' health is a priority, it cannot be permitted. I trust that the Chapel Hill Town Council and Mayor Hemminger will find a way to stop it.

Maria T. Palmer

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 10:46 AM
To: mariatpalmer@gmail.com
Cc: Colleen Willger; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; James Baker; Laura Selmer; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: FW: Say NO to drive-through restaurant at U Place
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Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

From: Maria Teresa Unger Palmer <mariatpalmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Cc: City & State Desk <city@dailytarheel.com>; Tai Huynh <tai.tr.huynh@gmail.com>; Michael Parker <miparker1@aol.com>; Karen J. Stegman <stegmania@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Say NO to drive-through restaurant at U Place

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Thanks to those of you who responded and clarified the SUP issue. I have changed my letter accordingly. I sincerely hope you find a way to stop this crazy proposal that expects a town to act as if we were not in the middle of a climate crisis. We cannot act as if we were in the 60's, unaware of the folly of building more car-centered infrastructure in our town. Sincerely,

Maria

Maria Teresa Unger Palmer
303 Forbush Mtn. Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

El jue, 12 may 2022 a las 21:41, Maria Teresa Unger Palmer (<mariatpalmer@gmail.com>) escribió:

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Sincerely,

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cc: DTH

**Maria T Palmer
303 Forbush Mtn. Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514**