

June 11, 2020

City of Norman Department of Planning and Community Development:

CASE NUMBER: PD20-14

We are Jim and Donna Hamilton, who are adjacent landowners immediately to south of the subject property. We have lived on the property for 40 years, investing hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy and improve the property and thousands of hours of personal work. The area from Sunnyslane to Anderson Road has been agricultural/small acreage use for all of that time, which has created a certain ambience enhancing its value and enjoyment.

Now, all of this may be ending for us. The applicant is building a marijuana growing and processing facility 500 feet from our front door (even closer to other residences) and a thousand feet or so from an elementary school and church. By requesting this variance, the applicant, who only recently purchased this property, is creating a very negative impact on our property. He purchased the property knowing that it was zoned agricultural but now wants a variance for his personal business convenience.

These properties are situated in a valley with much higher ground on the east and west sides. Sounds and odors will be easily transmitted up this valley to our property. If this variance is granted, we can no longer enjoy our property as we have for over 40 years. We can expect that activities will be conducted at all times of the day and night with cars, trucks, people, odors, noise and light polluting the area.

We know with certainty that granting this variance will negatively affect the enjoyment of our property by creating a very real safety issue. A ready-to-use supply of marijuana 500 feet from our front door is a significant personal and public safety issue. There is a long history of significant criminal activity associated with this drug. There is very little police presence in this area. Bad people with bad motives will quickly learn of this facility and likely be drawn to the area. The facility will be a target and, in turn, endanger our personal safety and property.

We strongly state that there is no good reason to grant the proposed zoning variance. Granting this application will not enhance the enjoyment or value of nearby property. Instead, granting the variance will have a very real adverse impact on the enjoyment and economic value of our property and others in the area.

Marijuana processing should be confined to industrial-zoned property which is insulated from housing areas and regularly patrolled by police. I urge you to reject this application and allow long-time property owners, such as me and my wife, the opportunity to continue to enjoy our property and to retain our hard-earned property values. **Granting this variance will not enhance the City of Norman in any way, and we urge you to reject the application.**



JIM & DONNA HAMILTON

FILED IN THE OFFICE
OF THE CITY CLERK
ON 6/11/20