

Town Clerk

From: Rose Fritzky-Randolph <rosefritzkyrandolph@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 7:30 PM
To: Town Clerk; Mark Witmer; John Fracchia; Cal Snow; Irene Weiser; Tim Murray; Review_Board
Cc: KiRa Fritzky-Randolph
Subject: Re: Support for the Moratorium on Commercial Development and Vehement Opposition to the Retail Development on 79 at Landon Rd

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife, KiRa and I would like to reiterate our support for the moratorium on commercial development in the town of Caroline so that the Comprehensive Plan may be completed. We thank you all for your efforts and consideration as we feel very strongly that the fate of our close-knit, peaceful, and progressive community and the future stomping grounds of our now only 10-month-old son, lies in your hands.

We have been present for all of the recent town meetings via Zoom (in particular the public hearings) regarding this matter and we've been blown away by all of the thoughtful and intelligent comments made by our fellow community members. We stayed quiet yesterday, as did others, because we felt most of what needed to be said had been said the week prior (and we didn't wish to waste your time further), but I was struck by something as the meeting winded down. I've yet to hear a single, firm argument made *against* the moratorium... That is, by anyone who wasn't *paid* to do so or will benefit financially if this project were to move forward. To me, that says it all.

I came to a similar realization when researching Dollar General's larger, cultural influence. The favorable impact appears to be reserved solely for the corporate shareholders as this multi-billion dollar company continues to cluster and financially profit. In fact, "The two biggest dollar chains, Dollar Tree and Dollar General, have more stores combined than the six biggest U.S. retailers — Walmart, Kroger, Costco, Home Depot, CVS and Walgreens — put together." But, beyond that, and especially for the rural communities involved, the negative impacts greatly outweigh the positive.

Below, I've highlighted just a handful of quotes from a few articles published in the last year. I found the information enlightening and thought it might be worthwhile to send them your way. (References are below as well.)

Thank you again for your time. This means such a great deal to all of us.

Sincerely,
Rose, KiRa, and Crosby Fritzky-Randolph
9 Hickory Trail

“...critics say dollar stores **contribute to declines in economic and public health** as they displace full-service grocery stores, eliminate jobs, and undercut competition from other retailers and small businesses.”

“And, in fact, products in dollar stores have also been shown to actually be **more expensive** than in grocery and other retail stores, as the products are packaged in **smaller quantities** in order to be sold for a dollar and **appear** cheaper.”

"What the dollar stores are betting on in a large way is that **we are going to have a permanent underclass in America**," Garrick Brown, director for retail research at the commercial real estate company Cushman & Wakefield, told Bloomberg. "It's based on the concept that the jobs went away, and the jobs are never coming back, and that things aren't going to get better in any of these places."

“**Wages are low** at most dollar stores... According to Glassdoor, the average cashier makes \$8 an hour or less than \$20,000 a year... These **stores run on minimal staff** and they're built to move a lot of product quickly... If you're a cashier at a dollar store, chances are you're also its janitor and security as well. Dollar stores go light on employee presence to keep their overhead low and to keep their profit margins high.”

“Dollar General and Dollar Tree will pay \$1.2 million to settle charges of selling **expired products**.”

<https://progressive.org/magazine/dollar-stores-prey-on-the-poor-sainato-191001/>

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/19/business/dollar-general-opposition/index.html>

<https://blog.cheapism.com/dollar-store-secrets/#slide=14>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/08/26/dollar-general-and-dollar-tree-fined-1point2-million-for-selling-expired-drugs.html>