

April 11, 2016

Planning Commission and City Council,

One year has passed since I wrote to you regarding Mr. Quint Bourgeois and rezoning in the Inskip community. I knocked on doors with a petition and explained the request by Mr. Bourgeois to return his property to medium density residential. Every person I was able to explain rezoning to signed except one. All of the people who signed my petition are still living in the same houses in Inskip and I promise you they have not changed their minds about rezoning. Last year you turned down the request made by Mr. Bourgeois which was the right thing to do for the people of Inskip. Mr. Bourgeois has one main interest and that is making money for himself regardless of how it affects the quality of life and property values for the people who call Inskip home so he is back trying to make his case one more time. I have to say I am very upset that we even have to go through this again. Mr. Bourgeois can develop his property - just not at the expense of the whole community. Current zoning allows for up to 6 units per acre but that's not enough for him.

I believe much of the Inskip area was downsized to a lower density in 2013 to help stabilize a neighborhood that was suffering from the effects of too many apartments and high density. Home owners still suffer from the effects of too many apartments but what we have now can be tolerated. Rezoning to a higher density will ruin Inskip. Speeding cars and trucks come down Bruhin and turn on to Glen Oaks sometimes turning onto Upchurch and speeding over to Inskip. Posted speed limit signs seem to make no difference.

I live on Upchurch Road and I see people fixing up their homes and mowing their yards and planting new flower beds and things are looking good and it makes me proud and I know they are proud. I see people out walking almost every day.

There is an older lady who lives on Glen Oaks and walks her dog every day. There is a young couple who live down the road from me and they have a baby. They have worked hard on their yard this year and I have seen them pushing the baby in a stroller now that things have warmed up. A few kids ride their bicycles on Mitchell.

As I have already said and you must know our community is still in a fragile state because of all the apartments, heavy traffic, speeding cars, overcrowding in school and strangers coming and going. Nothing has changed since last year except that we have another challenge to what quality of life we have in Inskip. There are lots of people who live in Inskip and would like to stay and invest time and money into their homes but that's going to change if what we have now is not protected.

Rezoning to a higher density was denied last year because you knew it was not a good idea and you have to know it is still not a good idea. Please do the right thing and vote to protect the people who call Inskip home.

Very Sincerely,

Deborah Rosford

2015 Letter

Members of the Knoxville City Council,

I am writing this morning to ask one thing of you. Regarding rezoning and Mr. Quint Bourgeois just do the right thing for the homeowners in the Inskip community which is precisely what you were elected to do; represent the best interest of the people in Knoxville. Mr. Bourgeois has no interest in the future of Inskip or the people there. His one and only interest is himself. I think you should check into the history of his real estate transactions to see exactly where his interest lies before putting his interest above a whole community which is in a very fragile state simply because we have been saturated with apartments.

I also think it would be wise to check with the police department to see how many times they have been called to the Inskip area and where the problems are coming from.

In a letter to Nick Pavlis Mr. Bourgeois compared the value of his property to that of a Mercedes being turned into a Chevrolet because of rezoning for the good of the community. Well I guess I have a Chevrolet and he wants to turn it into a worthless piece of metal good for nothing. He doesn't seem to care that our homes are an investment for us too and we want to hold on to what stability and quality of life we still have in Inskip.

Saturday before last I spent two hours on Inskip and Glenn Oaks with a petition against rezoning to medium density. I am 66 years old and I have arthritis in one hip. I think I got thirteen signatures. Only one person was aware of this rezoning issue so I had to explain what was happening to everyone and all but one person was happy to sign. That one person is an old man and I really don't think he understood the implications of rezoning to medium density residential. Another thing that took time was knocking on doors where people were home but would not answer because that is the world we are living in. I still work full time and if this was happening in warm weather with longer days I give you my word I would have many many more signatures and people would be happy to sign.

I would like to mention that I live on Upchurch Road and there is one apartment complex on Upchurch that I believe has been the source of multiple drug deals and I am told we have four sex offenders living there at present. I have been told people living in the apartment have tried to intimidate at least one home owner. We also have a speeding problem on Upchurch and Glenn Oaks and have had for a long time. People cut through from Bruhin to Glenn Oaks to Upchurch to Inskip and that increases our traffic.

If you allow our low density residential designation R-1 or R-1A to be overturned you will not be representing the people of Inskip and their best interests. As I have already said please just do the right thing for the Inskip community.

Sincerely, Deborah Rosford