

Dear Knox County Planning Commission,

I am writing in regards to the zoning designation of the site of the historic Milani Warehouses on Candora Ave.

I work at the Candoro Marble Building (next door to the site). Our organization conducts visual arts programming year round through exhibitions and artists studios. We regularly receive visitors of all ages who come to enjoy the art, the building, and the surrounding area. The proximity of the Loghaven Artist Residency nearby on Candora Avenue, and a creative workshop opening soon at Martin Mill and Ogle, reinforce that this location and the Vestal neighborhood is a place where the arts and culture are growing.

These warehouses and the property they're built upon irreplaceably contribute to the unique character of the historic heart of Vestal and the marble industry. These warehouses also housed the workshop of Albert Milani, responsible for many iconic sculptures and carvings that contribute to the visual culture of our city.

In addition to the preservation of history, the site is of interest to the arts community and supporters of the arts. We want people to feel welcome when they come to the Candoro Marble Building and the surrounding area to experience innovative and inspiring art. The smell of asphalt across the street is already somewhat of a deterrent, and further heavy industrial use next door would be problematic for any visitors, school groups, staff or events. The request to change the zoning from light industrial to heavy industrial would negatively impact the future of our programming and growth in the arts in the neighborhood.

Thank you for considering the rich history, present use, and potential future of Candora Avenue and the Vestal neighborhood.

Carolyn Jobe