

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to share as a resident of south Knoxville, specifically the South Haven and Island Home neighborhoods; as well as the Director of Beacon of Hope, a ministry serving south Knoxville's working families. I support the rezoning of Giffin School to multifamily residency.

From my understanding this was rezoned to single family residences, however this property was never developed as such. Now this property sits as a blighted property in the neighborhood. We have already experienced the benefits of newly built apartments with new residents enjoying the benefits of living in South Knoxville. Our neighborhood would again benefit from affordable multi-family housing.

The presence of housing for more working individuals and small families will complement the neighborhood already comprised of many working adults. As many working people seek rental housing, they find the current market is not in their favor, some are already displaced from what they could afford due to owners selling the housing they were renting. The stress of securing safe housing should not be burdensome. This rezoning and development will alleviate some of the pressure by providing housing to such neighbors.

As neighbors is our responsibility to reach out to those who move around or join our neighborhoods and invite them to be a part of the kind of community, we want to continue to live in. Only through growing relationships with and supporting our neighbors will we build healthy and safe neighborhoods and the City of Knoxville.

Our community needs Giffin School rezone affirmed and plans to proceed to be good neighbors to those who need it most and will contribute to our neighborhoods.

Thank You for letting me share.

Beth Kahn

12 year resident of the South Haven/Island Home Neighborhoods