

As someone who lives directly next door, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the rezoning request that has been made to change the 5303 Jacksboro Pike and 3225 Essary Drive properties from an RN-1/LDR to RN-4/MDR. It has been brought to our attention that the property owner intends to use the 1.34 acres to build an apartment. I believe this change is unnecessary and will negatively effect the surrounding area. Not only will it negatively affect the area, the rezoning request goes against the standards to allow for rezoning. To name a couple, there have been no change in the area and zero public policy change in regards to increasing residential intensity in or around the property. The standards alone should be a reason for denial, but if that's not enough, I will discuss the negative effects it could impose on our area in the next few paragraphs.

The area this apartment would be built is already a high traffic area with only two-lane roads and multiple 4-way stops. Living here, one thing I have noticed in the past 9 years is that Fountain City residents are not the only ones who use Jacksboro Pike and Essary Drive to get to and from work in the mornings and afternoons. Residents of Halls and Maynardville use these roads as well to bypass traffic on Broadway to get to the interstate quicker. Also, if you're trying to pull out onto Jacksboro Pike during these high traffic times, good luck, because its about near impossible. My point in saying this is two-lane roads are not meant for the volume of traffic we see daily and adding an apartment building smack-dab in the middle of it will not help matters.

The fire station is also a matter of concern. The employees of Station 15, although paid to do this job, is a part of our community and they should be considered when making these types of decisions. When an apartment building is being built directly next door to their place of work and may impede their response time to calls, this is an issue that should be at the top of the list on reasons why this rezoning should be denied. This apartment complex would have entry and exits on both sides of the fire station, which could end up causing a delay in response time. This alone would put the lives of the individuals currently living in Fountain City in jeopardy. Another point I would like to make regarding the fire station is that it was built in the 60's. The number of people and businesses in the area have grown since then and the fire station has remained the same. It is time for an update to accommodate the growth of the community. I would like to recommend that the city should consider an expansion of Station 15 onto the 5303 Jacksboro Pike property to hold more than just 2 fire trucks. If apartments go up directly next door there is no chance of being able to do this any time in the future.

Now that I have mentioned the very important issues within the community above, I would like to point out some issues my family and I are going to experience living directly next door to the 5303 Jacksboro Pike property. We have two children under the age of 3 years old that play in our privately fenced in backyard very often. If the zoning is changed from RN-1 to RN-4, we will no longer have the luxury of spending time in our back yard and having complete privacy as this would allow them to build 35' tall buildings. We also do not like the thought of having to raise them next to a construction site, not only due to the increased noise that comes with construction, but also the dangers it will have on their lungs by breathing in construction dust.

I could go on and on about the negative effects the rezoning could bring to this area, but I hope everything mentioned above will be enough to help deny the rezoning request. To the property owner, it's all about money, but to the Fountain City community, it is about making sure our community is preserved and our own lives are not negatively impacted by a change that is absolutely not necessary.