



City of New Bedford

Office of City Council

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Linda M. Morad

Councillor at Large
City Council President
2016, 2018 & 2019

October 26, 2020

City of New Bedford Planning Board
Chairperson Kathryn Duff
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Reference: Planning Board Meeting Agenda of October 28, 2020
Case 20-26 – 100 Duchaine Boulevard – continued agenda item

Dear Chairperson Duff and Members of the Planning Board:

I am writing in reference to the above referenced Case 20-26, which was continued from the September 30, 2020 Planning Board agenda. This item is scheduled to be heard by the Planning Board on Wednesday, October 28, 2020. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment scheduled for the same date and time. I would however like to once again state on the record my opposition to Case 20-26, which requests approval for the expansion of an existing glass and plastics recycling and processing facility at 100 Duchaine Boulevard, located in the New Bedford Business Park.

It is well documented that the current operation of this business has significantly affected the quality of life of the residents residing in the immediate neighborhood. The dirtiness of this business, the noise, smell, traffic concerns, hours of operation and disregard for the general surrounding neighborhoods have all been eloquently communicated to this Board by the neighbors that continue to attend any meeting associated with this project to voice their concerns. In my opinion the Planning Board has an obligation to address the neighborhood concerns and uphold the quality of life in this neighborhood versus rushing to approve a project that is one phase of a planned multi-phased expansion.

The Planning Board, prior to any approval, should understand how noise and smell generated by this dirty business will be contained, limit the hours of operation, to include not only the time of day but to eliminate any operation on Saturday and Sunday. The surrounding property owners, some of the highest paying taxpayers in our City, should not be subjected to a noisy, smelly, 24/7 operation in their residential neighborhood. I understand that this is an as of right use request, however the Planning Board has an obligation to condition any approval in a way that protects quality of life of neighborhoods, not just generate new tax revenue for the City.

The Planning Board should understand and address, via an unbiased traffic study, how trucks will be controlled in accessing this facility and how the safety of the surrounding neighborhood will be protected from the increased heavy truck traffic that is sure to be the result of the expansion of the current operation.

This is a major issue that this Board has not addressed in any way and for which you have responsibility. Further, approval by the Planning Board, must be structured so that in the future, should it be determined that any truck traffic generated to or from this facility is found to be utilizing the residential roadway known as Phillips Road, an immediate cease and desist be issued and the company appear back before the Planning Board where further restrictions, penalties and fines will be considered and assessed.

Also, I have serious concerns in approving any expansion of this project in phases knowing the future intentions of this company which are well documented and on record. The Planning Board should only review this project in its entirety and should not be approving this phased approach to expansion and ultimate change of core operation.

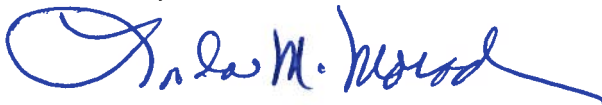
Additionally, several of the business owners in the New Bedford Business Park have voiced their concern regarding the negative image the business operation at 100 Duchaine Boulevard has on what is known as the premier 'Business Park' in Southeastern Massachusetts. Trucks hauling glass and plastics and leaking smelly liquids on the access roads don't promote an image of a 'Business Park' nor add value to the beautiful properties maintained by the other park businesses. I would have hoped that the New Bedford Industrial Foundation, overseers of the New Bedford Business Park, would also have voiced concerns about these issues. Unfortunately, they have left this responsibility to the members of the Planning Board. And therefore not only is it your responsibility to protect the residential taxpayers in the surrounding neighborhoods, it now becomes your responsibility to also protect the property owners and commercial taxpayers in the New Bedford Business Park.

For these reasons, and so many more, I implore you, the members of the New Bedford Planning Board to continue your approval of this expansion project until such time as all the issues are addressed, the traffic and environmental studies have been completed and you have put in place the safeguards and regulations that will protect the residential neighborhoods and adjacent business operations within the New Bedford Business Park.

Kindly read this letter into the record of the Planning Board meeting to make those in attendance and the general public aware of my strong opposition to your approval tonight of the expansion of the operation as described in Case 20-26 and the business currently conducted at 100 Duchaine Boulevard.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this correspondence and for action in helping me to protect the residents of the north end and the current business operators in the New Bedford Business Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda M. Morad", with a stylized, flowing script.

Linda M. Morad
Councillor At Large

xc: Ward 1 City Councillor William Markey
Greater New Bedford Industrial Foundation, Board Chair Elizabeth Isherwood