



March 20, 2018

Planning Commission
City of Ann Arbor
Council Chamber,
2nd floor, Larcom City Hall
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Planning Commission:

Briarwood Mall has been part of the Ann Arbor community since 1973. We have hosted events in our parking lot, including:

- Annual 5k runs such as the Color Vibe 5k with proceeds going to Food Gatherers and Susan G. Komen;
- English Gardens greenhouse;
- Test drives for local dealerships;
- M Den tent sales;
- Art fair, football, and winter classic shuttles;
- Touch a Truck events with Success by Six/United Way; and
- Journey's Backyard BBQ.

Hosting these events has allowed us to be more engaging with nonprofits, allows us to support our retailers, and enables us to be engaged in programs in our community.

I want to clarify for the record several points mentioned in the Staff Recommendation Report dated March 15, 2018 written by Alexis DiLeo.

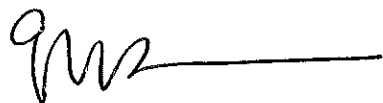
- Our events have permits granted by the City of Ann Arbor prior to opening and we have worked to be good corporate citizens. The report says that we have hosted some events that have taken place without appropriate review and permission. We disagree with this statement, and need clarity.
- We are not asking to do anything more than we have done in the past. We are not proposing a new development as the letter implied.
- In July 2016, the City informed us that the parking lot was not zoned for C2B and thus asked us to have the property re-zoned. Briarwood has complied with this request and have been earnestly working to resolve the zoning issue.
- There were mentions of redevelopment plans in the staff recommendation letter. We have never requested a permanent outdoor sales area, and have no development plans in this zoning request.
- We were advised to keep each parcel as a single zone, per the City Planner Jeff Kahan. This letter is suggesting multiple zones in a single parcel. As this may not be consistent with zoning throughout the rest of the city, we need to clarify this request.
- The report reflects an incorrect area to be rezoned. It also cites issues of hydrant coverage in this area, however, we have not been made aware of any issues. Please clarify.

There are many **benefits to the City of Ann Arbor** in granting the rezoning request, which include:

- By hosting events in our parking lot, we are drawing traffic to the city and events support our retailers;
- Having the biggest parking lot in the City allows events to come to Ann Arbor that the city might not otherwise be able to support;
- Our parking lot has been used by the local hotels for their meetings and programs.
- Tax revenue from permitting fees will resume.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erika', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Erika Williams-Hickman
Mall Manager

EWH/djm