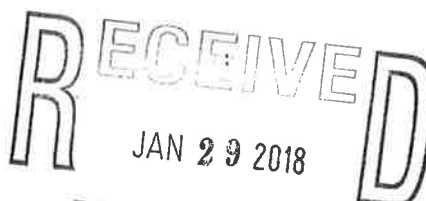


Dale Bartoletti
125 Chestnut Street
Salinas, CA 93901



January 27, 2018

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

Andrew Easterling
Salinas Public Works Department

Mr. Easterling:

As you are doubtless aware, the corner in question is the location of The Steinbeck House, a non-profit restaurant and author's birthplace. What you are likely unaware of is the difficulty the House already experiences with regard to guest parking.

The curbs at the House currently provide only four parking spaces on Stone Street and two on Central Avenue. These are hardly sufficient for up to 50 lunch guests, so the first overflow area is across the street in front of 137 Central. The proposal before the Commission would eliminate both spaces in front of the House and four more across the street.

On any given day, there are at least 10 volunteers working at the House, and they more than fill the small parking lot at the rear. Most use the parking lot a block away at Sacred Heart Church, deliberately leaving the few street spaces for lunch guests.

A few things to seriously keep in mind:

- . In the 13 years that I've been a volunteer at the House, there has not been a single incident involving a vehicle and a pedestrian... or another vehicle for that matter... at the corner in question.

- . Every day, people with walkers, wheelchairs, canes and caretakers have managed to cross the street without incident. The curbs at both corners of the intersection are already sloped for wheelchairs, etc. Elimination of the only two parking places in front of the House is clearly unnecessary.

- . When there is a funeral or a wedding at the church, or when Jury Duty registrants need a place to park, parking spaces disappear for blocks, forcing House guests to either lengthy walks or to just keep driving. The financial survival of the Steinbeck House depends upon having available parking for its guests.

Sixty feet of red curbing is just about the worst proposal imaginable for an area already short of parking essential to local businesses and activities.

Sincerely,