

August 15, 2018

Salinas Planning Commission
Salinas City Council
200 Lincoln Avenue
Salinas, CA 93901-2639



Dear City Councilmembers and Planning Commissioners:

I'm writing to write my opposition to the item on the August 15, 2018 Planning Commission meeting agenda to repeal the provision in Salinas Zoning Code which prohibits places of religious assembly in ground floor properties in the 100-300 blocks of Main Street, Salinas.

Our family owns the property at 356 Main Street, which is 3 doors down from the applicant's property going towards South Main St. We are AGAINST this proposed amendment, and we ask the Planning Commission to DENY the request for the amendment to the current zoning ordinance.

The current zoning ordinance was drafted, discussed, voted on, and adopted to protect, to include, to govern all properties in the zoning district for the COMMON good and benefit of all properties and businesses.

To change and amend this ordinance for the wants of 1 property owner will hurt all surrounding properties and businesses that this zoning ordinance is meant to embrace. This amendment will create a commercial dead zone in the middle of the 300 block of Main Street during normal business hours. Our property is in the outer section of the 300 block of Main Street, and to create a commercial dead zone between our property and other properties located between the applicant's address towards Alisal St and beyond could impact the flow of shoppers and other foot traffic to our area along Main Street. Storefronts with regular commercial activity is what we want and need to attract individuals to our area, and to attract more business activity to our area.

The City of Salinas Downtown Vibrancy Plan is designed to create a vibrant downtown district from the 100 block of Main all the way down to the end of the 300 block of Main Street. This is an exciting time for all businesses and properties located in the 100-300 blocks of Main St.....investment from the City of Salinas and investment by all property owners with the creation of the Downtown Salinas Community Benefit District (Salinas City Center Improvement Association). A vote to amend the original ordinance will be a step backwards to all the work and investment being done to create a vibrant and successful downtown district.

Please vote no on this amendment.

Thank you.

Cheri Hitchcock
Property Owner 356 Main Street