

August 1, 2018

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

Re: Changing Main Street Zoning to Allow Non-Commercial Storefront Use - OPPOSE

Dear Planning Commissioners and City Councilmembers:

There will be an item on the August 15, 2018 Planning Commission meeting agenda to repeal a provision in the Salinas Zoning Code that prohibits places of religious assembly on the ground floor of the three blocks of Main Street in the downtown area.

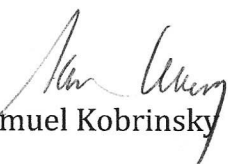
This provision was inserted into the city municipal code because churches were setting up on Main Street and creating dead zones. There was infrequent foot traffic and activity at these storefronts. Windows were papered over. Merchants were concerned that storefront churches would multiply and contribute to blight.

The success of our business depends on a vibrant downtown. That means rows of storefronts that are alive with regular commercial activity.

If the zoning code is amended as proposed to the Planning Commission, there are several vacant storefronts on Main Street that could be promptly adopted as "places of religious assembly, and similar assembly uses." Why would the city change the zoning law to encourage proliferation of infrequently used storefronts on Main Street?

There are many locations elsewhere in the City of Salinas where places of religious assembly can establish operations. Main Street is special. Please keep the current zoning laws in place for Main Street.

Sincerely,


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