

Cornwall-Commercial Neighbors

July 20, 2007

Tim Stewart
Director
Planning and Community Development
210 Lottie St.
Bellingham, WA 98225

Mr. Stewart,

Enclosed is a petition put together by an *ad hoc* committee of business owners, employees, and residents of the specific area that is certain to be affected by allowing a Hookah Lounge to operate in the alley between Cornwall Avenue and Commercial Street. The address is listed as 1315 Cornwall Avenue.

We are in opposition to this permit as it is simply a bad fit for the proposed location and wish the City to exercise more quality control in issuing permits in the Central Business District (CBD), much as it would in any other neighborhood in the city. We realize that there are differences in zoning and permitted usage for the CBD, but we need the City to understand that not everything fits and/or is desirable by neighboring businesses and/or residents.

This location will become yet another downtown hangout and this is not the vision that we have for a healthy and vital CBD. We only hope that the City also has a better vision for the CBD. Hangouts are proven to be sore spots in any comprehensive plan for an attractive downtown, and they need to be considered as such.

As this is written, the prospective operators of this venture are already at work on a *mural* to *decorate* the alley. Has the City already issued a permit for a mural? Do we have no say in this matter, either?

Sincerely,



Joe Meche
Cornwall-Commercial Neighbors

Cornwall-Commercial Neighbors



July 17, 2007

To whom it might concern:

It has been brought to our attention that the City is in the process of approving the location of a Hookah Lounge in the alley between Cornwall Avenue and Commercial Street. The address is listed as 1315 Cornwall, but is in reality no more than an old storage area and access to businesses that front on Cornwall Avenue. Recent news tells us that this is planned to be an after-hours gathering spot for the under-21 crowd. No matter the clientele, we see this as a terrible idea that is filled with potential safety and general nuisance concerns.

There is no setback to speak of since the proposed location is right on one of the busiest alleys in the downtown area. This is certain to become a hangout for crowds that will spill into the Parkade and into the People's Bank drive-thru, both of which have had numerous incidents in the past, including car prowls, overturned garbage cans, and spraying of obscene graffiti.

We the undersigned encourage the city planners, police department, mayor and city council, and any other interested parties to meet with a representative of our group to better understand why we are totally in opposition to this venture in this location. This does not represent a direction that is suitable or desirable to vital downtown development.

(17 SIGNATURES OMITTED.)