

LU Committee

From: Sheila Kelley <kly_sheila@hotmail.com>
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To: LU Committee
Subject: Testimony for July 19, 2017/Special Use Permit
Attachments: Testimony of Sheila Kelley.docx; Testimony of Sheila Kelley.docx

Testimony of Sheila Kelley

During the Planning Commission meeting, I listened very closely to what Mrs. Wilson had to say because I was not certain yet what conclusions I might come to. After listening to Mrs. Wilson explain her hardships growing up in a plantation environment, her determination to better herself, and the financial losses she has incurred with her property, I concluded the following:

1. Many of us, her neighbors, have endured equal or worse hardships growing up...I can recall my parents feeding us oleo and sugar sandwiches for dinner...at the time we thought it was a treat, but as we grew older, realized this was all they had to feed us.
2. Many of us, again her neighbors, through education, determination, and hard work have also bettered ourselves.
3. The financial losses Mrs. Wilson has incurred are either a result of poor business decisions or creative tax preparation. As such, I find it difficult to comprehend that she would ask her neighbors to "bite the bullet" by allowing her to have commercial enterprise on her property...thereby, affecting all of us in a negative way.

My husband and I purchased our home on Maahali (within 500 feet of Mrs. Wilson's property) in 2016, not knowing that there was a possibility of a commercial enterprise being operated within a short distance of our property. We have been residents of Maui since 1993, living in various areas of the island. We chose Wailuku Heights as what will probably be our "forever home" because of its close proximity to services, my husband's offices, my various activities, the quietness, serenity, and the overall safe feeling of the neighborhood. Now, Mrs. Wilson wants to change that quietness, serenity, and safe feeling all for her own gain, the community be damned!

During the Planning Commission meeting, the Commission voted to approve Mrs. Wilson's Special Permit...and, it seemed to me and most neighbors present that there was little, if any, attention paid to our concerns or that the vast majority of Wailuku Heights residents object to a commercial enterprise in our residential

neighborhood. One of the Commissions' caveats was almost laughable...Mrs. Wilson would only be allowed to serve beer or wine at these commercial functions...as if, this would preclude attendees from becoming intoxicated! It was also pointed out by certain members of the Commission, that the residents of Wailuku Heights are prone to exclusivity and selfishness. This is quite far from the truth. I, as well as many of my neighbors, are committed to giving back to the island community as a whole through volunteerism and active participation in boards, committees, and commissions. I might suggest that the Commission do a bit of homework prior to making these ludicrous statements.

We have been told that we will not prevail because Mrs. Wilson is "wealthy and connected". I am here today "certainly not wealthy and definitely not connected" to ask you, the Land Use Committee, to do the right thing and deny this Special Use Permit...let Wailuku Heights remain the wonderful neighborhood it was intended to be...to do otherwise would be setting an unwise precedent and leading all of the residents of this island, down a very slippery slope.

Thank you.