

Mendocino County

SEP 10 2018

To: Ignacio Gonzalez, Interim Director Of Planning and Building Services

From: Scarlett A'Hearn, POB 146, Philo, CA 95466

(8326 Hwy 128, Philo, CA 95466) 707-895-9129

Planning & Building Services

Re: Minor Use Permit to establish a Daycare Facility/Small School in an existing church in Philo

Date: Sept. 8, 2018

I have lived down the lane from the church's driveway for 18.5 years. During this time, I have not been able to receive mail here due to the dangerous ingress and egress at the church parking lot around a blind curve. The Post Office deems this so dangerous that they will not deliver here and pay for my P.O. Box. We can neither get our trash picked up and have to go to the dump for the same reason.

Some years ago, my neighbor wanted to donate some land to the fire department, but they had to decline the offer due to the nature of Hwy 128 just on the other side of our the entrance to our road and the church's parking lot. It is always a "trick" getting out of our driveway, entering onto Hwy 128, but it has recently become even more hazardous due to the increase of the speed limit in downtown Philo that switches just before the church coming from the coast. People have always sped by the church down into Philo, but since the increase of speed limit, people barely bother to slow down as they FLY by the church, sometimes going 10-15 miles over the speed limit. Coming from Philo, you can't see anything, until it's too late and you're committed and out in the middle of the road. We've almost been hit many times and there have been many accidents there over the years.

This is a huge safety concern to me as a child caregiver, a grandparent, and a retired school teacher. I imagine a distracted parent after a long day's work adding one more child to the car with crying, tired children reaching down to get a pacifier to appease a child and getting smacked by a logging truck after leaving daycare. This is a very dangerous and life-threatening curve. I think it would be a liability to have children being transported into and out of this parking lot on a regular basis.

After teaching for over 30 years, I have witnessed how children are amazing escape artists and can get into trouble fast. Though there is a fence around the play area and door on the front of the church, it's not that far from the parking lot to the dangerous highway. God forbid, an unattended kid strays away from a talking teacher or parent out of the church yard and or out past the parking lot into the road.

I have been watching (& listening to post 10 p.m. night hammering and constructions) this project since its beginning and what I have noted is that there has been a general overall lack of communication with the neighbors, the code and building and county. This public hearing, I believe, should have happened last year when the building prospects begun, vs. spending a year doing construction and deconstruction (because things weren't up to code) only responding to codes if someone else brought them up. In my opinion, this meeting, communication with neighbors, understanding of building codes should have happened prior to

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the start of the proposal, not as an afterthought. This does not demonstrate a responsible, considerate or legal development of a project. If I were to allow someone to care for my grandchildren, I would want them to demonstrate, responsible, considerate, legal behavior.

These aforementioned are at the top of my concerns and form my opinion that though this sounds like a great project, this is not the safest location for it.

Aside from these safety concerns, I am concerned for the noise level in our quiet neighborhood as sound carries. Also, we live on a road that has not turn around and is only used by the residents. I believe this would change and we would have people wandering by and trying to do three point turns in our driveway, increasing wear and tear.

I hope that you please take this into serious consideration for all the reasons above.

Sincerely,

Scarlett A'Hearn