

Fountain City Town Hall, Inc

November 12, 2014

Item 11-A-14-OA, Agenda Item#: 6, Pet Services

Dear Commissioner:

We ask that “Indoor pet services” be excluded from the C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District. There are few C-1 Districts in Knoxville. They are intended to serve the neighborhood and provide a “narrow range of retail, service and convenience goods only...”. We believe the “indoor pet services” use is too intense for areas located in close proximity to residential uses. Note that there are no standards proposed for “indoor pet services.”

The C-1 District is the small commercial area that developed spontaneously in primarily older areas of our city, to serve the residents of the neighborhood. It is the kind of development that the Traditional Neighborhood District attempts to replicate. In fact, the Permitted Uses listed in the C-1 District are strikingly similar to the uses enumerated in the Traditional Neighborhood District, (3.11, C1 a.). Despite the similarities in intent and uses between the two districts, for good reason “Indoor pet services” is not proposed to be added to the Traditional Neighborhood District.

Additionally, in the interest of enforcement and to avoid conflict, we ask that the definitions used in the Knoxville City Code, Sec. 5-1-Definitions, be considered and possibly adopted in the zoning code. For instance, it appears the difference between “Boarding facility” as defined in the City Code and “Pet daycare” may be no more than a few minutes (more than 24 hours or less than 24 hours). If these uses are intended to be distinct from each other, it could be an enforcement nightmare. Keep in mind that “less than 24 hours” for “Pet daycare” does not mean the animal(s) cannot spend the night.

Given the definition of Kennel—“Any lot or premises on which five (5) or more dogs, more than six (6) months of age, are kept.”, care needs to be taken to distinguish between kennels and boarding facilities and pet daycare.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Yours truly,

Charlotte Davis, Carlene Malone, Co-Chairs, Fountain City Town Hall, Land Use Committee