

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



An open letter to Bedford Township:

I applied this year for zoning on our land based upon statements and testimony from our trial. Testimony by the township told us we had all commercial land with the exception of transition zoning districts on the western side. In our current application for zoning, we did what the township wanted. Because of this, we received the endorsement of the township consultant, Bedford Planning Commission's recommendation on five of six parcels, and the Monroe County Planning Commission's recommendation on all six parcels. Bedford Township's consultant writes about our plan as "an improvement to the vicinity and the township as a whole."

Judy Frankowski recently wrote letters to Bedford Now and the Toledo Blade with these statements, "We (Bedfordwatch) have fought to keep Toledo traffic and crime out of Bedford Township and out of our backyards." Rezoning the land "for me, it means losing the security and safety I now enjoy in my neighborhood." Concerning crime and safety, Ohio passed a law making it illegal to smoke in a bar. Because of that law, hundreds of Toledo residents visit Bedford bars each day so they can smoke and drink: some even become drunk. Drunk driving is illegal and has very serious consequences. Never once has Bedfordwatch been concerned about this "Toledo traffic and crime" and the significant threat it brings to the township.

The Bedfordwatch website lists the police report on the WalMart store in Sylvania as an indication of crime increase. If you read that report, 99% of the criminal activity listed is shoplifting and bounced checks. These two issues have been in Bedford for a long time. If our rezoning does lead to more bounced checks would this really impact the "security and safety" of Bedford neighborhoods?

Testimony from our trial showed that any big box store is welcome in Bedford. A deposition is a sworn statement, so all the facts are known. Quoting Township Trustee Dennis Steinman is his November 8, 2006 deposition about the master plan and big box stores:

The master plan does not eliminate big box stores because we do have C-3 in the township. We have to address big box stores if you are going by our zoning ordinances. There are locations in the township that are zoned C-3 right now, so there is opportunity in our township.

There are many other statements like this from the trial. Why was the "big box issue" even debated by the Planning Commission? Mr. Steinman's deposition was available to the Planning Commission members and they chose to ignore it. Our family could not be more disappointed in Trustee Steinman and his dishonesty concerning what he said about our land at the Planning Commission meeting, compared to his sworn deposition.

Trustee Steinman is the vice president of his son's company. Asked about where the company's office is, he said the only office was "just my home" in a Lambertville subdivision. It is illegal to have a commercial office in a residentially zoned site. Bedfordwatch has never been concerned with this criminal activity or drunk driving. like they are about possible bounced checks and shoplifting.

Our new rezoning request complies with all the testimony from our trial. After eighty years of invested interest in Bedford Township, our family agrees with Bedford Township's Planning Consultant that our request will be an improvement to the township as a whole.

John Whitman

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