### **Michelle Henrie**

From:	Michelle Henrie <michelle@mhenrie.com></michelle@mhenrie.com>
Sent:	Thursday, August 16, 2012 4:03 PM
То:	Tim Flynn-O'Brien (tim@flynnobrien.com); 'Thompson, Bruce T.'
Cc:	KCURRAN@CABQ.GOV; CMarrone@cabq.gov; 'Ortega, Crystal' (COrtega@cabq.gov)
Subject:	Appeal AC 12-10
Attachments:	City_Council_TRNA_Appeal_No_2.pdf

Tim, Bruce,

Please find attached Silver Leaf's statement for the upcoming appeal hearing on Monday. I will deliver hard copies tonight or tomorrow. Michelle



MHenrie | Land ' Water ' Law P.O. Box 7035 . Albuquerque, New Mexico . 87194-7035 225 E. DeVargas . Santa Fe, New Mexico . 87501 505-842-1800 | fax 505-842-0033 michelle@mhenrie.com

This email and any attachments are privileged and confidential. If you have received this email in error, please destroy it immediately.

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### CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE CITY COUNCIL

APPEAL NO. AC-12-10 Declaratory Ruling Project No. 10003859

**Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Appellant** 

Silver Leaf Ventures, LLC, Party Opponent

### PROJECT OWNERS' RECOMMENDATION FOR HOW CITY COUNCIL SHOULD HANDLE THIS APPEAL

Project Owner respectfully requests that the City Council consider that the best course of action in this matter is to let EPC answer any questions about how to interpret the Big Box Ordinance during the course of the regular hearing.

**Background.** Appellants asked the Zoning Enforcement Officer questions specifically about the Walmart project. Appellants wanted a Declaratory Ruling that would preclude Walmart from being built on 11-acres of the commercial portion of the larger mixed-use Anadalucia site of 280+ acres. The problem is that they asked questions that couldn't be answered. The questions asked contain factual presumptions and when those presumptions are not true (for example, there are no "residentially zoned streets" at issue because all of the site is zoned SU-2), as a practical matter there is nothing that the Zoning Enforcement Officer, or the LUHO, or the City Council can do. The question is unanswerable.

As you can see from this appeal, attempting to answer the questions asked by the Appellants could lead to a host of unintended consequences. Consider the issue of whether EPC can overlook "mandatory" requirements of the Big Box Ordinance. The problem is that the Big Box Ordinance uses mandatory language (such as "shall") in connection with subjective criteria (e.g., "quality of life"). Because subjective criteria cannot be measured, EPC must exercise discretion in order to do its job. After the EPC makes its determinations then parties are free to appeal.

**Recommendation.** At this point in time, there is a project pending before EPC. That project has not been allowed to move forward through the hearing process because of the appeal. It would be unfair and unjust for City Council to make any decision that changes the rules for a pending application. Moreover, if City Council made a decision to adopt Appellants' strained interpretations, the effect could make it impossible for Walmart or any other Large Retail Facility to locate on this site—a site that has been zoned for commercial use since 1985 and designated by the City as a Community Activity Center. So doing would have the effect of prejudging the outcome of a pending application without having given the project a proper hearing.

While Appellants would support such an outcome, there are many others in this community who support the project, including the proposed Walmart. We ask that the City weigh a defensible process and property rights against the confusion raised in this case.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the City Council let the pending matter go through the hearing process, let EPC determine what needs to be determined in that process, and let the parties appeal the EPC decision if they disagree.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHELLE HENRIE, LLC

By:

Michelle Henrie P.O. Box 7035 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87194 Telephone: (505) 842-1800 michelle@mhenrie.com

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was e-mailed and mailed on August 16, 2012 to:

Tim Flynn-O'Brien 817 Gold Ave SW Albuquerque, NM 87102 tim@flynnobrien.com

By:

Michelle Henrie

Bruce Thomson City of Albuquerque Council Services P.O. Box 1293 Albuquerque, NM 87103 <u>bthompson@cabq.gov</u>

### **Michelle Henrie**

From:	Thompson, Bruce T. < bthompson@cabq.gov>
Sent:	Wednesday, August 29, 2012 10:43 AM
То:	Michelle Henrie; Tim Flynn-O'Brien
Cc:	Curran, Kevin J.; Miller, Anita P.; Mason, Laura J.; Ortega, Crystal
Subject:	FW: AC-12-10 - Project Owner's Findings of Fact
Attachments:	Silver Leaf findings 8-29-2012.pdf

These proposed findings will be provided to the City Councilors.

From: Ortega, Crystal Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 10:23 AM To: Thompson, Bruce T. Subject: FW: AC-12-10 - Project Owner's Findings of Fact

Are these okay to go in the packets?

From: <u>STEVEHOWARD25@comcast.net [mailto:STEVEHOWARD25@comcast.net]</u>
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 10:19 AM
To: Thompson, Bruce T.; Ortega, Crystal; Marrone, Carmen M.; <u>tim@flynnobrien.com</u>; <u>rrb@tierrawestllc.com</u>; Curran, Kevin J.; Miller, Anita P.
Cc: Michelle Henrie
Subject: RE: AC-12-10 - Project Owner's Findings of Fact

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Attached is *Project Owners' Proposed Findings of Fact* from Michelle Henrie. Packets of this document are being delivered and / or mailed to appropriate parties today.

Feel free to let me know if you have difficulty opening the document or if I can be of further assistance.

Thank you.

Steve Howard, Paralegal MHenrie | Land Water Law Office: 505.842.1800



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE CITY COUNCIL

APPEAL NO. AC-12-10 Declaratory Ruling Project No. 10003859

**Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association, Appellant** 

Silver Leaf Ventures, LLC, Party Opponent

### **PROJECT OWNERS' PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT**

Silver Leaf Ventures, LLC, agrees with Mr. Thompson's proposed Findings of Fact numbers 1-13. In addition, the following Findings of Fact are proposed as well.

### **GENERAL FINDINGS**

- A. The EPC's Record relating to the Project Case (No. 11 EPC 40067/40068) is not a part of the Record on appeal for Appeal No. AC-12-10. These are two separate cases and should be maintained, handled, and decided on separately.
- B. In Appeal No. AC-12-10, Appellants attempted to establish new procedures for EPC and new interpretations of the Big Box Ordinance. These new procedures and new interpretations are different from EPC's past practice and precedent. This difference was evidenced in the Record by:
  - i. Juanita Garcia's testimony to City Council of August 20, 2012, that "within the Zoning Code 'shall' was used hundreds of times, if not thousands. Yet, exceptions are allowed in a lot of these cases, typically through a variance process." [AND/OR]
  - ii. Planning Staff testimony to the EPC at the hearing approving the Unser Crossing Large Retail Facility: "it is almost impossible for any single request to further or meet all applicable goals and policies. And usually what staff and the Planning Commission is looking for is a project that meets the preponderance of applicable goals and policies. The staff analysis and the Planning Commissions review should also take into account the context of the site, where it is located, what is surrounding it, which goals and policies are more applicable, most applicable, and make a decision based on those issues and circumstances..." The Unser Crossing project was treated as being "in full compliance" with the Big Box Ordinance

even though "Not too many people are walking to pick up some plywood or taking the bus to get an armload of two by fours. So this is one use that is very difficult to make pedestrian oriented because it is safe to say that the vast majority of people are going to be coming in an automobile..." (Party Opponent's Exhibit 10). [AND/OR]

- iii. A map showing the location and access for the approved Hotel Circle Large Retail Facility, over 125,000 sf. (Appellant's Attachment 1(C)). Access to this LRF is not via a large collector street that adjoins the store's parking lot, as Appellants interpret the Big Box Ordinance in their "required to be located" argument. Access to this LRF is consistent with Juanita Garcia's testimony at EPC that the access considerations must be with regard to the whole master planned development: "the site development plan for subdivision has to be considered for access to this site...." (EPC Minutes January 19, 2012, attached to Notice of Hearing before the Land Use Hearing Officer dated May 17, 2012).
- C. It would be unlawful for the City adopt new procedures for EPC and/or new interpretations of the Big Box Ordinance and apply those procedures and/or interpretations to a pending application, specifically, Case No. 11 EPC 40067/40068 (the Project).
- D. [Compare to TRNA's "Waiver" issue.] EPC should not treat the Large Retail Facility project in Case No. 11 EPC 40067/40068 any differently than EPC has treated Large Retail Facility projects in the past.
- E. [Compare to TRNA's "Waiver" issue.] When EPC considers the Project, its procedures and its interpretations of the Big Box Ordinance should reflect EPC's past practice and precedent, and its current procedures and interpretations, as if Appeal No. AC-12-10 never happened. Neither the Declaratory Ruling nor the LUHO decision should be a part of the Record in the Project proceedings. These documents are contained in the Record for a separate matter, Appeal No. AC-12-10. It would be unlawful for the City adopt new procedures for EPC and/or new interpretations of the Big Box Ordinance and apply those procedures and/or interpretations to a pending application, specifically, the Project.
- F. To protect the property owner's due process in hearings on the Project, now pending before the EPC, EPC's consideration of the issues raised in the appeal should be separate from its consideration of the Project and should not influence its consideration of the Project.

### MR. THOMPSON'S ALTERNATIVE FINDINGS

With regard to Mr. Thompson's alternative proposed Findings No. 14, the following is similar to 14(B).

G. [Compare to TRNA's "EPC Proceedings" issue] With regard to whether the EPC is (or is not) bound by the former ZEO's testimony in its consideration of the Project, the question is answered by EPC's past practice and precedent. EPC should act consistently with its past practice and precedent.

With regard to Mr. Thompson's alternative proposed Findings 15, Silver Leaf would propose the following as a substitute.

H. [Compare to TRNA's "EPC Proceedings" issue] The EPC should proceed with its hearings on the Project. Separately, EPC should consider the issues raised in Appeal No. AC-12-10 and provide a recommendation to City Council about whether any clarifying language should be added to the Big Box Ordinance by amendment. These changes would be binding on Large Retail Facility projects going forward, but not on the Project.

With regard to Mr. Thompson's alternative proposed Findings (i.e., whether the ZEO should refrain from issuing Declaratory Rulings for pending cases), Silver Leaf agrees with Finding 16(C), stating that this is not an issue that needs to be addressed.

With regard to Mr. Thompson's optional proposed Finding No. 17, the following is similar.

 With regard to whether the EPC must prepare findings interpreting the access portions of the Big Box Ordinance, the question is answered by EPC's past practice and precedent. EPC should act consistently with its past practice and precedent.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHELLE HENRIE, LLC

By:

Michelle Henrie P.O. Box 7035 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87194 Telephone: (505) 842-1800 michelle@mhenrie.com

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was e-mailed and mailed on August 29, 2012 to:

Tim Flynn-O'Brien 817 Gold Ave SW Albuquerque, NM 87102 tim@flynnobrien.com

By:

Bruce Thomson City of Albuquerque Council Services P.O. Box 1293 Albuquerque, NM 87103 bthompson@cabq.gov

Michelle Henrie

### SITE PLAN FOR SUBDIVISION - REQUIRED INFORMATION

### THE SITE:

The site consists of approximately 69.6 acres. Tracts 68 and A till be replatted into 9 Tracts through the Development Review Board as shown on this Site Plan.

### PROPOSED USE:

The site is zoned 80-1 for C-2 (23.3 ac), O-1 (11.7 ac), and PRD (20 du/ac). The Individual parcels are designated according to land use.

### PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR INGRESS AND EGRESS:

VEHICULAR ACCE88: Learning Road provides the major signalized access into Andalucia at La Luz interior roads (al varying widths) are proposed to serve the project and provide vehicular ingress and egrees to these paraels, to increase satisfy to existing development, and to be consistent with City policies contained in the Coors Corridor Plan (see Street Sections, on sheet 3). Two right-in/right-out access points onto Coors Boulevard are between Learning Road and Montano Road.

BICYCLE and TRAIL ACCESS: Elcycle access is provided by 6 toot on-street bike lance in Learning Road connecting to on-street bike lance within Streets A and B providing a connection to Montano Road Learning Read trail (a 10 foot trail within a 20 foot landscape easement), and a 10 foot trail within a 60 foot easement. Sidewake will provide pediestrian connectivity throughout Ancialucia.

TRANSIT ACCESS: Coordination with the City Transit Department shall be initiated at the Site Plan for Building Permit to provide access and service to this preperty, Coors Boulevard is a Enhanced Transit Corridor on the West Side.

### INTERNAL CIRCULATION REQUIREMENTS:

Conceptual access points (at varying widths) have been identified on this Site Fion for each of the parcels final locations, width, and configuration shall be determined with future Site Fians for Building Permit with approval by the City Engineer, Internal sidewalks and/or trails shall be provided within each parcel with future Site Fians for Building Permit.

### BUILDING HEIGHTS AND SETBACKS:

See Sheet 2 of 3, Design Standards. Building height shall be consistent with the Coors Corridor Plan (see Sheet 2).

### MAXIMUM FAR:

A maximum floor area ratio (FAR) shall be .35 for the SU-1 for C-2 and SU-1 for O-1 perilons of Tract CB and Tract A.

### LANDSCAPE PLAN:

The Design Standards (see Sheet 2 of 3) provide for preservation of significant cottonwoods, an emphasis on native and naturalized plant species, landscape criteria, and landscape butters. Subsequent landscape plans shall be consistent with City standards and policies regarding water conservation and police.









### GENERAL NOTES

- Tracts 68 and A (reterrind to on this 81s Plan as Tracts 1-9), are part of a Sile Plan for Subdition-opproved by the Environmental Planning Committees on November 18, 2004 (Project 1000085 04890-00455). This 85e Plan
- by the Environmental Patrolog Commission on Neversition 19, 2004 (Project 2000) <u>replaces</u> the previous Site Faun for Studioteion as it relates to Tracels Site and A. A portient of Lewring Read at Cocore Bouterard is public right-or-may. An addition
- a portion to assess regular of the City of Aburparque as a private access assessment in finand within a finand within a portion access to the City LIN Bolton 95A, Trod B, vie a 24 fred Finited access read within a consist to the City LIN Bolton 95A, Trod B, vie a 24 fred Finited access read within a constraint of a learning hourd all becomes period Boseque Bohod, Trad 4A. The areas addicent to Learning Road and the incriment boundary of Boseque Bohod, Loi 44. The areas addicent to Learning Road and the incriment boundary of Boseque Bohod, Loi 44. anal portion of Learning as essement in

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- the tuture grade with the Long Range Ro
- gate at Track 7 and Mirarchite Road shall be extimited with a Sile Plan for Building HAY Bysts

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### SITE PLAN FOR SUBDIVISION - REQUIRED

### THE STREET

The eds occubit of approximately 50.8 scree. Tracis 53 and A will be replaited Into 9 Tracis through the Development Review Board as shown on this Site Plan.

### PROPOSED UBB:

The sits is zoned 84-1 for C-2 (203 uc), G-1 (117 ac), and PFD (20 dul/ac). The Individual percess are deallywhed according to land use.

PEDEBTEMAN AND VEHICULAR INGREES AND EGREES: PEDEBTEMAN AND VEHICULAR INGREES AND EGREES AND Product and provide vehicular fear and only on the second because the project and provide vehicular largeress and agrees to these parovels to increases addy to sufflag development, and to be considered with CBV problems contained the the Court Corritor Fin (see Stread Studiers, and work 30, The policies contained the the Court Corritor Fin (see Stread Studiers) where it is and in the second stread and Matriateo access polshe only Courts Bouleward are between Learning Road and Matriateo

BICYCLE and TRAL ACCESSI: Boyols access is provided by 6 tool on-sired flow lases in Lauring Read connocing to on-sired bia tanse tiltik Streets A and B proking a unreactor to kontaro Read Learning Boad Irali (A 10 tool trail with a 50 tool indicates essenanci, and a 10 tool trail tithe a 50 tool essenairi. Bidenska sit provide pedasirite connectify throughout Andakuch.

TRANSIT ACCEDE Coordination with the City Transit Department shall be Initialed at the Size Fize for Building Permit to provide access and services to this property, Coord Bodieward is a Exhanced Transit Corridor on the Weed Sida.

Conceptual access points (at verying aidits) have been identified on the Ste Pinn for each of the percels final locations, MRA, and configuration shall be calaramed with Alters Silo Pinns for Suffag Penniu thit approval by the City Engineer, Internal advectate and/or tratle that be provided with each purcel with **ATTERNAL CIRCULATION REGULE** MENTO

ture 80te Plane for Building Paymit

Build DAG Heißerts AND SattaACKS: See Sheet 2 of 9, Deeton Blandards, Building height shall be consident with the Coors Contdor Plan (see Bhart 2).

### MAXIMUM FAIN:

A maximum floor area ratio (FAV) what be A5 for the BJ-1 for C-2 and BJ-1 for C-1 portions of Track 88 and Track A

### LANDSCAPE FLAN

The Design Blandards Gase Elsee? 2 of 31 provide for preservation of significant contemporals, an expirate on naive and naivrateed plant spacies, indexcipe orders, and indexperiate buffers. Bosequent hardwaps plans shall be condition with City standards and policies regarding water conservation and polen.

Photect Multiple tocolog Application Number: 042PO 01843

This Pitch is consistent with the specific this Development Pian approved by the Entrocenstic Planting Commission (EPC), chiled May %, 2005 and the Pindrop and Conditions in the Ottical Noticetion of Decision are estimated.

Is an bitrativucture Liki required? (U) Yee ( ) No 8 yee, then a set of approved DRO plans with a work order is required for any construction with Public R<del>g is of Wa</del>y or for construction of public inprovements.

DIRIGHTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN SIGNET PLATFRONDA P Man-Indian Division States

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### SITE PLAN FOR SUBDIVISION - REQUIRED INFORMATION

### THE SITE:

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sd\_\_\_\_\_ on of D The site consists of approximately 228 acres.

### PROPOSED USE:

The parcels to remain the same relative to land use-residential (varying densities), commercial, office, private commons area/school recreational field, and public park,

### PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR INGRESS AND EGRESS:

VEHICULAR ACCESS: The existing Learning Road and Namaste Road off Coors Boulevard provide the major access into Andalucia at La Luz. Local roads (at varying widths) are proposed to serve the project and provide vehicular ingress and agress to these parcels, to increase safety to axisting development, and to be consistent with City policies contained in the Coors Corridor Plan (see Street Sections, on sheet 3). Two right-in/right-out access points onto Coors Boulevard are between Learning Road and Montano Road, and one right-in/right out access to Tract 5 is proposed. Learning Road is a signalized intersection and the main entry road off Coors Boulevard to the project (Seville Avenue) is planned as a signalized intersection.

BICYCLE and TRAIL ACCESS: Bicycle access is provided by 6 foot on-street bike lanes in Learning Road, Learning Road trail (a 10 foot trail within a 20 foot (endscape easement), and a 5 foot temporary trail to connect the northern end of Learning Road to Montano Road. New public trails are planned along the San Antonio Arroyo and along La Bienvenida Place. Sideweiks and private trails will provide pedestrian connectivity throughout Andalucia at La Luz.

TRANSIT ACCESS: Coordination with the City Transit Department shall be initiated at the Site Plan for Building Permit to provide access and service to this property. Coors Boulevard is a major transit route on the West Side.

### INTERNAL CIRCULATION REQUIREMENTS:

Conceptual access points (30 fact in width) have been identified on this Site Plan for each of the parcels; final locations, width, and configuration shall be determined with future Site Plans for Building Permit with approval by the City Engineer. Internal sidewalks and/or trails shall be provided within each parcel with future Site Plans for Building Permit.

### BUILDING HEIGHTS AND SETBACKS:

See Sheat 2 of 3, Design Standards. Building height shall be consistent with the Coore Corridor Plan (see Sheet 2) and should be kept to a minimum.

### MAXIMUM FAR:

Amaximum floor area ratio (FAR) shall be .35 for the SU-1 for C-2 and SU-1 for O-1 portions of Tract 6B and Tract A.

### LANDSCAPE PLAN:

The Design Standards (see Sheat 2 of 3) provide for preservation of significant cottonwoods, emphasis on native and naturalized plant species, landscape criteria, and landscape buffers. Subsequent landscape plans shall be consistent with City standards and policies regarding water conservation.

> AFTROVALS FROJECT #1000965 EPC #03EPC-01105



DE 03080-01715

This Site Plan for Subdivision is consistent with the Site Plan approved by the Environmental Planning Commission on March 22, 2001, as Amended by on



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### 4. Project# 1007204

08EPC-40034 SITE DEVELOPMENT -SUBDIVISION 08EPC-40035 SITE DEVELOPMENT -BUILDG PRMT 08EPC-40039 AMEND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN MAP DARREN SOWELL ARCHITECTS LLC agent for ARMSTRONG DEVELOPMENT PROPERTIES requests a Sector Development Plan Map Amendment from SU-2/SU-1/C-2 (10 acres), O-1, and PRD-20 du/ acre (7 acres) to SU-2/C-2 for Tracts 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, & 6, Barrett V.E. Subdivision and approval of Site Development Plans for the aforementioned tracts and Tracts 4-A-1, 4B, 5-B-1 & 5-B-2, Lands of WEFCO Partners, zoned SU-2/C-2, located on Central Avenue between Unser and 86TH ST SW, containing approx. 50 acres. (K-9, 10/L-10) Anna DiMambro, Staff Planner (APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS. SECTOR PLAN WAS RECOMMENDED APPROVAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL)

### STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Brito, Planning Department

### PERSONS PRESENT TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF THIS REQUEST:

SG Ellison, 1500 N. Priest Dr. Dan Serrano, 3305 Ronda de Lechugas Becky Davis, 500 Leeward Dr. NW Kelly Chapelle Norman Mason, 7427 Via Tranquilo SW Jerry Gallegos, 417 65<sup>th</sup> St. SW Louis Tafoya, 6411 Avalon Road NW Bernard Dooley, 7611 Via Sereno Miguel Maestas, 9400 Harbor Rd.NW

### THERE WAS NO ONE PRESENT TO SPEAK IN OPPOSITION OF THIS REQUEST:

MR. BRITO: Madam Chair, Commissioners this is agenda item number four, project 1007204, case numbers 08EPC 40034, 40035 and 40039. This is a three part request by Armstrong Development Properties with Daren Sowell Architects as their agent for a sector development plan map amendment to the West Route 66 Sector Development Plan. It is also a request for approval of a site development plan for subdivision and approval of a site development plan for subdivision and approval of a site development plan for building permit. This is an approximately fifty acre site located at the southwest corner of Central and Unser between Bridge and 86<sup>th</sup> Street.

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The subject site currently has two separate zone categories on it. The western portion of the site right at the intersection of Central and Unser is zoned C-2.

CHAIR MOYE: I believe that is the eastern side.

MR. BRITO: Sorry, the eastern side of the site at the intersection of Unser and Central is zoned C-2. The western portion of the site has an SU-1 zone that allows C-2, O-1 and planned residential development. The existing SU-1 zone limits the amount of C-2 uses to ten acres and requires at least seven acres of residential development. The applicant is proposing a change from the SU-1 zone to C-2 and that would make the entire site one cohesive C-2 zoned property.

The SU-1 zoning that was established in the West Route 66 Sector Development Plan was done so for a number of reasons. The chief reason it wasn't completely zoned commercial is because when the plan was adopted there was a foreseen and hoped for regional shopping center that was going to be developed to the north in the Atrisco Business Park. It is mentioned in the sector plan that that was the reason but since the sector plan was adopted that regional shopping center has not come to fruition. Instead the regional shopping center on the Westside was developed in the Cottonwood area in the Seven Bar Ranch Sector Development Plan. So that loss of intense commercial uses is one of the justifications for changing the zone on the subject site. The change in zone will allow the development of a community based shopping center in this designated activity center. And staff supports the applicant's justification for the change in map of the sector plan which would change the zoning map to create a cohesive C-2 zone across the entire property. That change in addition to the existing C-2 zoning would result in approximately fifty acres of C-2 that is subject to the shopping center regulations that meets definition of a shopping center and it is also subject to the large retail facility regulations because one of the proposed buildings is a large retail facility otherwise known as a big box.

Staff is recommending approval of the site development plans for subdivision and building permit based on the preponderance of goals and policies being furthered by the request. The request is also subject to the larger retail facility regulations as I mentioned and for the most part those Zoning Code regulations are met and furthered by the request except for the specific subsection that calls for site division of the site into three hundred and sixty by three hundred sixty blocks. Staff has been working with the applicant over the past at least two months and much more intensely over the past two weeks and that coordination with the applicant continued up to yesterday, the day before the hearing. Based on further discussion and coordination with the applicant staff has revised findings and conditions for your consideration that Ms. DiMambro is going to handout to you. And we have multiple copies for the applicant; their agent's as well interested persons in the audience.

CHAIR MOYE: Any one in the audience like one of these? Mr. Brito, these findings and conditions completely replace the findings and conditions in our staff report is that correct?

MR. BRITO: Madam Chair, that is correct they completely replace them but it is not a wholesale revision of every single finding or condition. What I have done is I have bolded

. . .

those findings and conditions that are either brand new or changed from what is in the staff report. I think the most important change to the findings if you look on page one the page numbers are at the lower right hand corner. Page one, finding number eight for the site development plan for subdivision as I mentioned the submittal meets the Zoning Codes large retail facility regulations section 14-16-3-2(D) except for the block size specifics of subsection 3 site division. But the Zoning Code does allow the Planning Commission discretion to approve the site development plan with block sizes that do not meet those specific 360 x 360 block sizes. And staff believes and recommends to the Commission that you approve the site development plans for subdivision and building permit because the proposed block sizes achieve the intent of the large retail facility regulations which are to create a more walkable experience for visitors and shoppers. The proposed design is appropriate for this location. This is in an unusually dimensioned and configured site as you can see it is not your usual rectangle or square, it is some kind of weird trapezoid with some odd angles on it and I think that was part of the consideration of the designer in the layout of the proposed shopping center. The narrow side of the site on the west abuts the adjacent 86th Street, it does provide a primary access to the site and the long side of the site along Central Avenue has a major entrance that does lead to a large pedestrian oriented plaza for a group of buildings. And then the final finding originally talked about how there was no known opposition to this request. Within the past week we have received numerous letters of support for this request from area residents and neighborhood associations and I believe we have a larger number of them signed up to speak today. So the last finding is proposed to be amended to read "There is substantial support for this request from area residents and neighborhood associations."

The site itself as I mentioned has an odd shape and staff believes the applicant works to accommodate the clients needs and potential tenants needs when it comes to visibility and marketability while still trying to address the regulations of the large retail facilities and applicable goals and policies from the Comprehensive Plan, Westside Strategic Plan and the West Route 66 Plan. As the Commission knows and staff has mentioned in many cases before it is almost impossible for any single request to further or meet all applicable goals and policies. And usually what staff and the Planning Commission is looking for is a project that meets the preponderance of applicable goals and policies. The staff analysis and the Planning Commissions review should also take into account the context of the site, where it is located, what is surrounding it, which goals and policies are more applicable, most applicable, and make a decision based on those issues and circumstances.

This location is raw land, undeveloped, I think the only residents may be some rattlesnakes and some tumbleweeds and it is in an area of the city that has been historically underserved by office, commercial and other necessary services. The proposed development will put these services in much closer proximity to a huge number of Albuquerque citizens in the Southwest Mesa that have been clamoring for these uses for years.

One of the unique issues that was taken into consideration for this large retail facility development is the proposed big box. Right now the applicant has a proposed tenant of a home improvement center and as most people know a home improvement center is generally not a pedestrian oriented business. Not too many people are walking to pick up some plywood or taking the bus to get an armload of two by fours. So this is one use that is very difficult to

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make pedestrian oriented because it is safe to say that the vast majority of people visiting are going to be coming in an automobile. So what the applicant has proposed is a number of pedestrian connections from this use to other uses within the shopping center and put a more of a pedestrian focus on the western portion of the site. When staff first reviewed this portion of the site this was one continuance of stretch of building facades and working with the applicant staff was able to get a pedestrian oriented plaza which is pretty large in size to be shown on the site development plan. This more pedestrian oriented portion of the site includes pedestrian access from proposed transit stops along Central to the pedestrian plaza from Bridge Boulevard across the rear of the site to the pedestrian plaza to make it more attractive for pedestrians and transit users.

The proposed conditions of approval are intended to bring the site into full compliance with the large retail facility regulations and into better compliance with applicable goals and policies. The applicant worked with staff on changes to the site development plan conditions and staff attempted to accommodate as many of those as possible but some of them cannot be accommodated because they are regulations in the Zoning Code that will require variances. In terms of signage and other larger retail facility regulations and design standards in the West Route 66 Sector Development Plan staffs recommendation takes the more stringent and strict route. Our recommendations are for the site development plans to comply with the more strict requirements. The Planning Commission doe have some limited discretion about signage, about what you want to approve. I spoke with Code Enforcement, the Zoning Enforcement Officer and he stated that the Planning Commission does have some limited discretion with signage in association with the site development plan approval. For example condition twelve E on page twelve of the revised findings and condition states that freestanding signage shall not exceed fifteen feet in height. That is a direct regulation from the Zoning Code and that is why the condition is there. The applicant I believe would prefer to have twenty six foot high signs which are allowed in the West Route 66 Sector Development Plan but the Zoning Code larger retail facility regulations take precedence. But the Zoning Enforcement Officer said that the Planning Commission could approve a variance with the approval of a site development plan if you feel it is justified by the applicant. With that I will stand for any questions.

CHAIR MOYE: Are there any questions of Mr. Brito? Commissioner Siegel.

COMMISSIONER SIEGEL: At this time just a brief question which is were we to approve the amendment to the sector development plan in fact it is my understanding that it is not an approval it is a recommendation to Council and that it goes from here over to them for consideration and probably go to LUPZ I suppose and then to Council. And anything else subsequent to it would have to await there for approval.

• MR. BRITO: Madam Chair, Commissioner Siegel that is correct.

CHAIR MOYE: Commissioner Jett-Walker.

COMMISSIONER JETT-WALKER: Mr. Brito in the revised conditions that you gave us for site development plan for subdivision page two, under design standards A that would be 3A can you just confirm the difference between the previous condition and this one. Is it previously it

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PRE-AP	PLICATION REVIEW	TEAM (PRT) MEETING
PA#11- 074	Date:	Time: <u>1;30</u>
1. AGENCY REPRESENTATIN	/es present:	*
Planning	Carmen Marrone	Others
Transportation	Nilo Salgado-Fernandez	B Others Crystal Metro
ONC	Stephanl Winklepleck	Others
Code Enforcement	Probert Plerson	Others
Others		
2. TYPE OF APPLICATION AN	ITICIPATED/APPROVAL AUTHOR	
Zone Map Amendment	EPC Approval	City Council Approval
Sector Dev, Plan Amendr	nent 🖸 EPC Approval	
Site Dev. Plan for Subdivi		E DRB Approval
Site Dev. Plan for Bidg. Po		B DRB Approval
		EPC Approval DRB Approval
□ Other		
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pre-application	purue meeting - coordin	and wo UNC
meed approval of	2nd access from M	contano - planning for mid-fuly
· // //	review conceptual plan	
SIGN AND DATE TO VERIFY	ATTENDANCE & RECEIPT OF TH DR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES (	IIS SUMMARY
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APPLICANT OR AGENT LOATE

EXHIBIT

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Villa del Bosque - Shopping Center - Typical Site Details

II + W Architecture



# Villa del Bosque - Shopping Center - Typical Site Details

II + W Architecture



H+W Architecture



# Villa del Bosque - Shopping Center - Typical Site Details

II + W Architecture



II + W Architecture



Villa del Bosque - Shopping Center - Typical Site Details

H + W Architecture



# Villa del Bosque - Shopping Center - Typical Site Details

II + W. Architecture



11 + W Architecture











Publication: Jnl Final Edition 8/2005-today; Date: Aug 13, 2012; Section: Op-Ed / Letters to the Editor; Page: A9

### Walmart Good Anchor to Development

**By Marilee Lowman** 

West Side resident

There's a key issue that people aren't talking about when it comes to the Walmart at Coors and Montaño. It's an issue that, I believe, makes this store not only helpful and convenient but also a crucial addition to the West Side.

The issue is simple — Walmart is just one building out of the many stores and apartments planned for this commercially zoned site.

After attending various city meetings, I've learned that the Coors and Montaño site isn't only going to house a Walmart. In fact, Walmart will only take up 11 out of the 285 acres on the site.

This commercial property goes all the way from Coors and Learning Road to Coors and Montaño. Undoubtedly, we're not just talking about Walmart when we discuss the future of this site.

Banks, restaurants, and other businesses along with a multifamily housing development are planning to build on this property. Soon construction will begin for the site's apartments, which will be only a five-minute walk south of the Walmart.

Commercial plans for this site are going forward, whether we like it or not. Now, it's up to us to promote any efforts to keep this center from becoming just another strip mall in the city.

Some strip malls have made a wasteland out of areas in the city, and I would prefer the West Side do something a little different.

There's a way we can avoid creating just another strip mall. To put it simply, we need to secure a solid and successful business for the site.

Now let's talk about Walmart.

Walmart is a perfectly suitable, and indeed, appropriate store to kick off this center. We need an anchor store at Coors and Montaño that will guarantee the center's success, and there's no better store to attract business than Walmart.

It will be the solid foundation for the restaurants and shops that move in next to it.

Instead of rows and rows of small shops, we'll have one larger store (potentially Walmart) and other small businesses and residential developments evenly spaced around it. This shopping area will have trees and walking paths, allowing us the space to move, shop, drink coffee, say hi to friends and just breathe.

Let's put in a store that has proven time and time again it can keep this commercial zone populated, landscaped and attractive to potential retailers.

When Walmart's plans are finally allowed to move forward, we'll see not only a shopping center, but a living center, come to life. There will be families, kids, teenagers, college students and people from all walks of life buying groceries, walking their dogs or riding their bikes on the property.

It's clear that Walmart will only help the center grow, bringing customers and residents to the other businesses that

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Walmart Good Anchor to Development

9/10/12 2:15 PM

open around it, small and large alike.



### JOURNAL FILE

This roundabout on Learning NW could lead to a controversial Walmart at Coors and Montaño.

9/10/12 2:08 PM

Publication: West Side Section; Date: Mar 31, 2012; Section: Opinion; Page: 3

Active?ater

### **OTHER VOICES**

### Silent Majority Wants Walmart

**By Jamie Lawson** 

West Side Resident

Recently, Walmart announced plans to put a new store on a commercial lot at Coors and Montaño, and predictably a group of protesters are opposing the new store. This seems to happen quite a bit these days, but the protests are not reflective of the will of the people. After these stores open, the people flock to the new stores and show their support by shopping there. In short, the silent majority supports Walmart and this new store.

With good reason. Walmart has provided a safe, clean and low price alternative to the other stores. People who want to shop at Walmart, or need to shop there, should not be looked down upon because of their circumstances. In fact, people on a budget need the low prices Walmart provides, and being against Walmart amounts to a small elite group of protesters trying to deprive the cost-conscious shoppers a place to go.

The new store at Coors and Montaño makes a lot of sense as well. The area is already zoned commercial, so something will be going in there eventually. If something is going to be there, shouldn't we be happy that Walmart wants to invest in our community? The lot has sat empty for years and now will provide shopping for people who don't want to drive to another store. It will also give the people of the West Side another shopping option.

In addition, this store will provide over 250 jobs and in this economy that's saying something. These jobs will be on the West Side, meaning people won't need to drive across the Montaño bridge to get to work. This new store will put people back to work, while providing convenient shopping and lower prices.

There's more. Walmart has made itself a leader in worldwide sustainability. It has made significant changes in the way the world does business and more of that environmental protection should be honored. In this project, Walmart has made a commitment to both bike paths and Bosque protection.

And Walmart supports local vendors. Last year Walmart purchased over \$80 million from New Mexico farmers and other local businesses. So next time you're in a grocery department at Walmart, look around, because a good deal of that produce comes from a local farmer and local products are around the store.

So let's be serious about this: the people want it, the area is zoned commercial and Walmart is where people, especially those on a budget, want to shop. We should recognize that the small band of protesters are putting their special interests ahead of the public interest. We should build the new Walmart on Coors and Montaño and respect the fact that shoppers have rights, too.

### Walmart Means More Convenience

WHEN CONSIDERING the Walmart at Coors and Montaño, I hope our city councilors remember that there are many of us out here on the West Side who want the new store. I am one of them. I feel it's necessary for the West Side to have more places to shop.

I spend a lot of time at the stores already at Coors and Montaño. I go there to shop for groceries, eat at the restaurants and or even get my dog's hair cut. It's a commercial area that people like me use frequently.

It would be nice to also have a Walmart there so I can pick up things on the way home from doing errands. I'm there anyway, so why make multiple trips around town? With the new store, I can do everything at once.

Building a Walmart at Coors and Montaño doesn't mean floods of more people will be going to the intersection, as opponents claim.

Rather, people on the West Side will be able to be more efficient with their shopping, taking one trip out to the area instead of multiple trips around town.

I've heard people complaining about congestion at the intersection. Let's think about it for a second. Coors and Montaño gets backed up during rush hour. But, who is going to leave their house to go shopping at Walmart during rush hour anyway? I know I wouldn't. Rush hour is for people going to and from work. If anything, the Walmart will distract drivers and take them off the roads during that time.

I hope our city councilors take into account that a number of us want this store and think it will only benefit the West Side.

### **VALERIE BEATTY Albuquerque**

### **Pay Attention To Property Rights**

The Albuquerque West Side Chamber of Commerce urges support of the proposed Walmart at Coors and Montaño.

The project brings allowable development that balances shopping opportunities on Albuquerque's West Side. It also lends to economic development activity that creates badly needed jobs. This project also will relieve the burden placed on those neighborhoods near the two shopping centers located near the Cottonwood and West Bluff areas that attract from under-served areas of the West Side.

But most importantly, the Albuquerque West Side Chamber of Commerce believes strongly in the preservation of property rights and allowable uses of said property. We believe that the required due diligence on this project meets the requirements set forth and that entitlements should be afforded to the primary risk-taker — the owner.

DAN SERRANO

Chairman, Albuquerque

West Side Chamber of

Commerce

Albuquerque

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LETTERS

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Publication: West Side Section; Date: Mar 24, 2012; Section: Opinion; Page: 3



### LETTERS

### **More Development Means Less Dust**

I REALIZE that there have been literally dozens of opinion pieces and letters on the proposed Walmart at the corner of Coors and Montaño, but there are some additional points that must be discussed in support of the proposal.

For starters, I live within walking distance of the proposed store. During one of our recent windstorms that plague the area during the spring, the strong winds picked up significant quantities of dust and blew it across Coors. This made driving hazardous, but also brought to mind the fact that this "fugitive" dust is considered harmful to air quality.

This particular plot of land has been vacant, dusty and overgrown with weeds for at least six years.

Far from being a pristine part of the bosque, this lot is further from the bosque than the existing school and would benefit the area both visually and environmentally — not to mention the jobs and additional tax revenues — if it were developed.

Sure, I'd love to have a Trader Joe's or a Whole Foods on the West Side, but to the best of my knowledge, they are not looking to build a store in this location.

The good news is that there are plenty of open lots still available, including one at Coors and Western Trail.

It is time to stop stonewalling and let this business get going.

### PAUL GESSING

Albuquerque

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### For the Walmart At Montaño

I AM HOPEFUL the proposed Walmart at Coors and Montaño gets built. The Coors at I-40 Walmart is too busy in spades. Recently on a Wednesday at about 6 p.m. we went shopping at the I-40 Walmart. It took us about 30 minutes to get the shopping done, but we had to wait in line 30-35-plus minutes checking out.

I noticed there were 16 lanes open on this mid-week evening and they were each at least six or seven people deep, the express lanes more.

As it happens with Burqueños at Walmart, we ran into extended family who visited with us through the checkout process, bringing our party to six in addition to our \$250-filled grocery cart. Too many, too close is too much. I believe the new Walmart at Coors and Montaño will help alleviate the crowds at the other

### Walmarts.

There is also the question of affordability. Wal-Mart is affordable. It seems that a cadre from the Bosque School is fighting an invasion of a "big-box" store. I am not sure they are representative of the majority of people on the West Side. I attended a private college in Joplin, Mo. I lived in the school dorms, ate in the cafeteria, bought books, and paid tuition and fees for \$6,000 less than the tuition at the Bosque School. I believe it is fair to say protesters at the school are not representative of the West Side. Much of the West Side is made up of families like mine who need to shop at Walmart. We should be heard.

I understand Walmart is far from faultless. That being said, we should not be fighting growth. It is inevitable and unstoppable. There is a true reason for this Walmart at Coors and Montaño to be built beyond my personal convenience and I hope it gets built.

### **M. ERIC LUCERO Albuquerque**

City Should Respect the Rights of Property Owners

Publication: West Side Section; Date: Jun 16, 2012; Section: Opinion; Page: 4

### **ON WALMART**

### **City Should Respect the Rights of Property Owners**

By Patrick Montoya

West Side Resident

In the controversy surrounding the proposed new Walmart at Coors and Montaño, there's one very important factor that's getting lost and must be discussed to ensure a satisfactory outcome to this project.

What's getting lost is that the city, for better or for worse, zoned this piece of land for commercial use. Yes, for just the kind of development that the developer has planned for this spot. Yes, for Walmart or Target or any of the big retail stores. That's what the city planned for the site. It would be wrong, and have serious consequences, to change the rules in the middle of the game.

Property rights mean something. In this case the property owner has purchased the land and paid the price to have the right to build a large retail center.

The property owner — not Walmart — cannot be deprived of the rights that go with that property. If we do that, we are stealing the value of the property away from the owner. That is not fair, not right, and not in keeping with our sense of lawful activity.

The city chose to make this site commercial and we have to live by that. Of course the city does have recourse. It could start eminent domain proceedings and seize the property. Of course it would have to pay highest and best use for the property and provide for the full rights of the property owner. That would, however, cost the city millions of dollars that it needs to spend elsewhere.

What's also getting lost is that this is a commercial retail area already. It's surrounded by other retail stores, chain stores, on two very wide boulevards. So the city obviously believes that this site should be commercial.

If public pressure succeeds in stopping the development, no doubt the property owner will take the matter to court — and win. It's one thing to take on worthy causes, but it would be a shame if once again the city landed in court, only to lose a big judgment and incur big-time legal fees. Let's not go down this road again and spend the taxpayer's money, which is now in short supply, in a losing cause.

It's just unfair to tell a land owner, in the middle of the process, that oops, we've changed our mind about your property. The city made a decision to make that site commercial and now we have to live with that decision.

If we don't, if we get caught up in the NIMBY atmosphere, we will lose in court, and we, the taxpayers, will lose when our precious funds have to be cut from senior centers or programs for kids just to pay a legal judgment that will undeniably come due.



9/10/12 2:11 PM

The Opinion Page runs Saturdays. Submit letters online at abgjournal.com/ letters/new, or send mail to P.O. Drawer J., Albuquerque, NM 87103

### . OTHER VOICES .

### We Can't Argue With Walmart

### By SyLVIA BOKOR

How can anyone disagree with those opposing Wal-Mart building a store on the southeast corner of Coors and Moniaño? After all, why southeast corner of Coors and Maxiafor After all, why abould anyone want such as store when one can go to higher priced places and keep up with those Joneses — that small group in Tuyler keep up with those Joneses — that small group in Tuyler there ill why opper a meth two We most certainly should have ill why opper a meth two We most certainly should not want to patronize an American business that has become the world's largest discount retailer. Besides, consider how Wal-Mart became so big. Meraly or effective market-ing, meraly by providing the cleanest environment and soils herving another such a given naighborhood. What

most secure shopping area in a given neighborhood. What good is having another such establishment pn that hig corner lot where the wind continually blows sand into Montafio Plaza shops and homes?

Survey one cannot seri-ously wait to see mare jobs created in that area. Think of all the people traipsing around: construction work-ers to build the store, work-ular traffic Oh, wowi Wal-Mart will surely not even

consider planning access roads to get into and out of their facility easily. Why on earth would one want to see more light illu-minating that corner and the bus stop on Moniaño, and more foot traffic dropping into those small business more hole cranit arophing into those small business and restaurants that chitter Mominto Plana? Surely hav-ing only one large groscry three has in quite enough fave in the jotethild ar white given and not hole above our station. We should not draam of raising our standard offly-ing which Weimart through its thoughful price struc-turing offers. We should all join the screams opposing Weimart so we can avoid ink-ing advantage of the values Walmart offers.

**OPINION** 

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ing auvantage of the values Walmart offers. Ino't it left — excuse me, I mean, right — to simply ban all efficient businesses on principle, although of course it's left — 1 mean, right — to deny one's real motive by claiming damage to the bosque. Remember, Wal-Mart is marely one of the most generous busi-nesses in the United States. Because they know how to run a business, they make a tim a smorp and then, guess what, they give if away. Is an a morp and then, guess what, they give if away. Is that left'i meant, right. They give (cuillions) to charity. We should not support such ourageous philamitrepy. It makes the Joneses at Thylor Ranch look bad.

### . LETTERS .

### Southwest Side Needs a Hospital

AN ARTICLE IN the Sunday, July 1 edition of the Abhuquerque Journal touting the morits of the new UNM Sendoval Regional Medical Center included the following quote by Dr. Brad Cushnyr, neuroradlogist and medical Uitvector of radiology for SEMC: "We realized the West Side and Sandoval Country (cic) were underservet, so

realized the West Side and Sandoval Country (sic) were underserved, so our mission is to provide people not with just routine earn, but advanced carre by partnering with the university." Do hospital planners responsible for locating hospitals and the good doctor know what constitutes the West Side? Albuquerque's West Side actually extends from Rio Rancho in the north down to Dennis Chavest Boalaward and beyond in the aouth, and includes significant unincorporated, but populous contry land. It is perploxing that Dr. Owhor could be a undersered area when two other inspirated within a couple of miles of each other. It would seem that this area — really be Northwest Side—was already well served and is now overserved with thres. By contrast, the ariginal now overserved with three. By contrast, the original West Side — now probably better understood as the Southwest Side, south of 1:40 — with meanly 185,000 people is an area that is almost without medical services of any kind, let almos a single real hospital. This is the area of Albuquerque that is truly underserved. NORMAN MASON Albuquerque

**Report R** K WASHINGTON — In Amer ca, we believe that anyme ca grow up to be anything. You want to be presider Go fir it Among recent pur dents. Barack Obama, ' Clinton, Lyndon Johnson Dwight Risenhower all o from modest backgroun-course, not everycone v president, which is w most peopla, one iltur for how well America whether they rise ab-parents economical Cuess what? The Guess what? The frends here arc ingly good. In the the Great Recess refreshing com<sup>2</sup> vailing gloom from the Pew Real Info Elusive **Regarding Walmart** 

Regarding Walmart THIS IS BEING written in response to the articles written by Elaine D. Bruschoi Inte West Side Journal on July 7. As the recent expresident of Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association and now just a private citizen, I take lasue with the suggestion by Tam Carroll, a ropresentative for Walmart, that the association does not represent the citizens of our neighborhood. We had soveral general membership meetings in Taylor Ranch when this Issue first arose. These meetings were the noort attended meetings from the Pew ect, a nonpa group, compa of furty-some their parent in the late 1970s. Herv upbeat fin Most cent) exc cent) ex Income across For th the 1 2000 An 1100 \$1: AT most arcented meetings during my tenure as president and left no doubt that our members wish to oppose a big-box store at that location.

I am also very curious as how many of Wal-Mart's petition signers actually live or own a home in the Taylor Ranch area. As an Taylor Ranch area. As an example, supporters who claim to live on the West Side may not live in Taylor Ranch and may not be adversely impacted by the increase in traffic, critor and property valuation: Although I asked for community, both pro at comments, both pro ar con, at these meeting, one person volced po comments to me or c members of the box

members of the bo directors. Just as there an communities on it side, there are al-on the West Side majority, our m oppose a big-br the Coors and intersection. DAVID W/ Albuque:

With Walmart BY SYLVIA BOKOR West Side Resident How can anyone disagree

How can anyone disagree with those opposing Wal-Mart building a store on the southeast corner of Coors and Montaño? After all, Why should anyone want such ann montanoi anna an man should anyone want such Stouth any one want such a store when one can go to winter which and and and a store when one can go to higher priced places and spend more time and money on gas to get there? We must weep up with those Joness — that small group in Taylor Ranch who opnose a retail - that single group in Taylor Ranch who oppose a retail store like Walmart - mustr was Ma most cartainly chould we? We most certainly should We: We most certainly should not want to patronize an American business that has honormo the work of lawast

American business that has become the world's largest discount retailer. Besides, consider how Wal-Besides, consider low wat-Mart became so big. Merely by efficient management and cost effective market. by enicient management and cost effective market and cost enective indiate: ing, merely by providing the cleanest environment and most environment and Cleanest environment and most secure shopping area in a given neighborhood. What and is having another out a siven new mutuun wind Bood is having another such antaking another such Eour is having another such establishment on that big establishment on that big corner lot where the wind continually blows sand into Montaño Plaza shops and homee?

Surely one cannot seri-Survey one tannot serve ously want to see more jobs Created in that area. Think of all the people traipsing

around: construction work around: construction work-ers to build the store, work-ers to landscape it personnel to run the store, deliverymen and tranckere 4 nd the vehic. to run the store, deliverymen and truckers. And the vehic: ular traffic! Oh, wow! Wal. Mart will surely not even

D.

For more information about pets picked up in unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County, call the city of Albuquerque's shelter at 768-1935.

Looking for a lost or adoptable pet? Check the

BERNALILLO COUNTY

WEST SIDE

We should not support such outrageous philanthropy. It makes the Joneses at Taylor Danch took had Ranch look bad.

LETTERS

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city of Albuqu

pets. The city's West Successful Shelter is at 11800 Sunset Gardens SW, wow of 98th and Central on 114th SW. Kennel hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; office

hours start at 9:30 a.m. Call 768-1975 for more information and wait for the "other aluations" on the phone menu for an operator. For photos,

check at www. kycefay.com.

WEST SIDE JOURNAL SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2012 4



consider planning access roads to get into and out of their facility easily.

Why on earth would one Way on easing would one Want to see more light illu-Wall to see more user unit minating that corner and the bre etce on Montain and the bus stop on Montaño, and Lue ous stop on Montano, and more foot traffic dropping into those small business and metaurante that chuttee Into those small business and restaurants that clutter Montaño Plaza? Surely hav. ino only one large oronomy Montano Piaza: Sureiy dav-ing only one large grocery store there is quite enough for me in the hower classes We s for us in the lower classes. We have to be grateful for what's given and not look about a to the station. We not look about a to of raising our standard of liv-ing which Walmart through throughtful price should join the screams opposing Walmart so we can avoid tak. .ve ed by .n the e their deir pros itly dam scession? Joun Lus Sciscaus opposities Walmart so we can avoid tak: Trainia i av we van avvin tan-ing advantage of the Values ., including n the Journa emal.com/ ne syndicati yright, The Yriters Group.

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Motive by claiming camage to the bosque, Remember Wal-Mart is merely one of the most concrome bind. Wal-Mart is merely one of the most generous busi-nesses in the United States run a husinace they know how to husinace they make a ant: Skillet frittete :: New Mexico chile, tortialad, frozen juice bar. Alter selections: Max Sticks. The abusiness, they make a JESDAY

sbq.gov/ Shelter is

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Lunch: Asian chicken bowl, rice, broccoll-carrot mix, cherry toma-toes, Mandarin oranges. Alter-nate solections: Pearut butter

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with all meals

### WEDNESDAY

Breakfast: Breakfast wrap. Lunch: Chicken tenders, bark sauce, potato wedge, baby o seasonal fruit. Alternate and t mb that a new shelts her.

Rean and THURSDAY Breakfast: Granola, vo

Lunch: Taco salad, Spe orange smiles, cookie, / selection: Peanut butter

abbies

### FRIDAY

Lunch: Stuffed-crust pr or cheese pizza, crunchy veg-etables, dip, seasonal fruit.

EXHIBIT

st: Ministure o

Letters must include the full name and signature of author, address and telephone number for verification Only name and city will be published. Editors reserve the right to edit, delete incorrect inform tion or condense any letter. Sharon Hendra P.O. Drawer J, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

Letters policy Albuquerque Journal welcomes letters from its reacers expressing opinions on current events.

Online: ABQjournal.com/letters/new

Address:



### Walmart Should Be Approved; It Meets Planning Standards

BY JEFFREY JESIONOWSKI Albuquerque Resident

After a long and contentious battle, the site plan(s) for Coors and Montaño, the location of a proposed Walmart, will again come up for a vote before the city of Albuquerque's Environmental Planulng Commission (EPC).

It is a difficult situation for the commission, with things so divided. The commissioners have a tough job, wading through the reams of testimony to come up with a decision. However, they are appointed by the City Council to be objective and ultimately make sound decisions based on the laws and the facts.

The heart of this issue is twofold; 1) city planning, and 2) property rights. Both are crucial to our city government.

The land is currently goned for this kind of development. As a matter of fact, with the current zoning (SU-1 for C-2) and the previously approved Master Plan guidelines, the site could accommodate a much higher density and a much more intense use than what is being proposed.

The Master Plan encom-

passes a 60-acre site and also includes zoning for multifamily and office uses. The property owners and the city planners previously went through extensive research and had extensive community input into developing and approving these guidelines. Everyone knows that the adjacent Intersection -Coors and Montaño - has developed into the equivalent of Main and Main and everyone knew that something more intense than a snow cone stand or freestanding coffee shop would be developed there.

The city now needs to honor the master planning that was carefully developed and designated for that site. Otherwise, what good is any master planning at all, if it can be discarded whenever someone and there's always someone — who objects?

The second issue has to deal with property rights. The property owner purchased the land, applied for and received the current zoning, got the Master Plan approved with extensive community input, and now should be able to rely on those approvals to move the project forward. The property is entitled,

It would be wrong for the city to change the rules in the middle of the game, and it could open them up to a property rights lawsuit and potentially large legal fees and settlement if it does. The city has past experience with similar type settlement issues.

Some of the opponents would like to see a park there —at Main and Main — but the current zoning does not allow it. The city could always offer to buy the property — like it did on Osuna — and turn it into a park, but it will have to pay highest and best use for that spot, and it doesn't want to do that.

This should not turn into a referendum or a popularity contest on a particular retailer, and this should not be an arbitrary or capricious decision. The Planning Commission should do the right thing, follow the rules and approve the site plan(s).

Jeffrey Jesionowski is a former momber of the city of Albuquerque Environmental Planning Commission, serving from 2002 to 2007. He was chairman in 2003-2004 and 2006-2007.

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