

Aaron King

From: Elaine Renegar <jerenegar@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 11:35 PM
To: Aaron King; John Larson; jlarson1839@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] South Ward realignment

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Dear Aaron and John,

I am so OUTRAGED by this plan to move my neighborhood into the Southeast Ward that I can barely even write an email!!!! I AM LIVID!!!!!!

First, I'm upset that the planning department would have the unmitigated gall to make such moves without DIRECTLY contacting those of us who are being pawned off in this change! Among my neighbors, if anyone has heard about it, it was by sheer LUCK ... knowing the right person, being on the right email list, etc. The rest of us had NO IDEA about this plot! How dare you demand \$2,000-3,000 in property taxes from us EVERY YEAR, and then treat us with such abject disregard and disrespect? You certainly communicate with us very efficiently when you want our taxes or payments for water or other city services! Are we completely inconsequential when you don't want our money? Such a dismissive attitude toward the residents whose taxes make this city work is offensive and insulting!

Secondly, I am far MORE OUTRAGED about being dumped into Southeast Ward, simply because it makes columns of numbers look neat and tidy! I have been trying to write this email for 3 days, but could not get it edited down to an acceptable number of pages or a reasonable level of outrage! I know most of the residents of Kingtree, Fiddlers Glenn, and Konnoak Hills will settle on writing polite letters that make some politically acceptable points, because the truth is a Pandora's box! They may choose not to tell what's really going through their minds, so I will give you a hint. Following is my extremely abbreviated opinion on what happened and what is at risk for our homes and neighborhoods if you force us into Southeast.

In the past, the neighborhoods of Kingtree, Fiddlers Glenn and Konnoak have been to hell and back through two huge rezoning wars, and those of us who understood the stakes were heavily involved in the fights. The greedy developers, in both cases, were willing to do almost anything to get what they wanted, regardless of the massive damage that their developments would inflict on our neighborhoods! However, the shopping center developers were the most dangerous. They brainwashed a few nearby citizens into believing that they would become millionaires, if the rezoning went their way. One man was ready to do just about ANYTHING to get his million! In my opinion, the developers cajoled him into doing much of their dirty work. Regardless of how it happened, a neighbor's dog mysteriously died, there were veiled threats to residents, harassing phone calls, and nightly stalking rides up and down the street of our community leader's home. Heck, the pickup even slowly crept around my cul-de-sac! Thankfully, the police eventually got involved and managed to keep a lid on the explosive situation.

So what does that have to do with wards? Having a council member who stands by you in times of crisis is absolutely essential to your survival as a community. John Larson looked at both sides of the situation and realized that we were right! Like us, he KNEW that the schemes of the developers were a death knell for neighborhoods. John did everything he could to help us preserve the peace, safety, and quality of life of our neighborhoods! He understood that if our neighborhoods lost ground, Winston-Salem would lose ground. The plans to revitalize and strengthen South Winston-Salem would be lost without the ability to maintain our communities and property values. He was with us 100% and

voted AGAINST the petition to rezone. Mr. Taylor apparently has a perspective that is VERY different from ours. We listened to his comments and those of other council members, and realized that they are nowhere close to being in alignment with our views. I assume that Mr. Taylor did what he thought was best: he voted FOR the rezoning. In my opinion, he was saying that he didn't care about me, my home nor my neighborhood! I was FURIOUS! For months, we had tried to talk with him and help him understand our views, feelings, fears on this matter, but clearly that did NOT work. I felt absolutely betrayed by Mr. Taylor. It was obvious by then that he would NEVER understand our perspective. I was just thankful that, in John Larson, we had elected a city councilman who DID understand and WOULD stand by us when we needed him! We did win the rezoning fights, but only because Mayor Joines wisely broke the tie and voted against destroying our neighborhoods. It was THAT close! There's a LOT more to this story, and if you'd like to hear it, a couple of us would be glad to tell you all about it.

The bottom line here is representation. We voted for John Larson, not Mr. Taylor, so aren't you basically stealing our votes from us? And remember the American Revolution? What was it about? Oh, yeah, '**Taxation without representation!**' That is what you will inflict on us, if you move us to Southeast. I don't know Mr. Taylor; but I assume he's a good person. What I DO know about him is that he does NOT agree with us! Therefore he would **NOT REPRESENT** us or our neighborhoods! So, moving us to Southeast Ward means that we're back to the motivators for a revolution: we **pay taxes** to a government that just **IGNORES us** and does whatever it wants with our communities! You know, and I know that Winston-Salem is BETTER than that!

Haven't we fought enough to protect our neighborhoods? Are we going to have to go to war again? Wouldn't it be easier on everyone to just leave us in the South Ward? After all, in my garage, I still have a yard sign for John Larson for City Council, and I don't think it can be recycled! 😊

Sincerely,

Elaine Renegar

PS: I am attaching a link to the Facebook Page I created during our second zoning war.

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthWinstonSalem>