

8620 SW Milon Lane  
Portland, OR 97225

Case File: DI2020-0002. Holman's Directors Funeral Home

To: The City of Beaverton,

I am corresponding regarding the director's interpretation approval for Holman's Funeral & Cremation Service at the 3230 SW 87th Avenue location (case file # DI2020-0002). I am John McCarthy who lives at 8620 SW Milon Lane only a few hundred feet away from the proposed site.

I disagree with Holman's Funeral & Cremation Service being classified as a Service Business / Professional Service and believe will this business in that location detrimental and damaging impact on the beloved, beautiful and long-established West Slope neighborhood.

A funeral home should not be classified as a "Service Business / Professional Service" it is very different from typical service businesses like a dentist office, financial planner office, hair salon, post office, etc. Those types of business offer common services that people seek in their everyday lives but a funeral home doesn't offer a common general service but rather is part of the **death care industry**, which offer very rarely needed specialty care. Cemeteries, mortuaries, crematories, and funeral homes are all part of the death care industry so Holman's Funeral & Cremation Service should be classified under cemeteries rather than Service Business / Professional Service in the Beaverton business codes. Professional service businesses offer services to living people whereas cemeteries and similar businesses (i.e., funeral homes) focus on dead people. Oregon OSHA has the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board create guidelines for transporting human remains, embalming procedures, and cremation standards, which is exactly what funeral homes do. This further substantiates that that funeral homes fall under cemeteries not professional service. Government agencies and bodies group funeral homes with cemeteries and this situation is no different. I don't know of any professional service / service business that uses hazardous materials like formaldehyde in their daily business operations further proving this is highly specialty business.

This business will have damaging impact on the neighborhood, business environment, and potential health and welfare of people around it. Funeral homes use hazardous and dangerous chemicals like formaldehyde, which is extremely harmful and lethal. Formaldehyde is classified as a carcinogen (cancer causing) and a mutagen (genetic mutation causing) as well as being corrosive and highly flammable / combustible making this a potential danger to the people and neighbors around it. This site they proposing for the funeral home is too close residents – it is not a safe and proper location for such chemicals. OSU Chemical Safety Committee has even classified formaldehyde a "high hazard" carcinogen. Even if properly handled, it will be

released into the air and there could be potentially long-term effects caused by prolonged exposure to increased levels in the air. It is also very likely over time it will get released into the soil and ground water contaminating the areas around business causing additional health concerns. Formaldehyde also has pungent smell so the wind will blow it towards neighbors causing a very offensive smell and possibly making them sick.

Having a funeral home next to our property will make our homes less desirable for home buyers and/or renters because no one wants to live next to a funeral home / mortuary. I spoke with a prominent home appraiser and they informed me the home values could go down as much as 10% for a house that are next to a funeral home. It will also negatively affect businesses around it as people won't want to go to businesses next to/around a funeral home and so businesses will suffer. Financially, it will hurt and devalue homes / business property in the area rather than spur growth and development. A funeral home will cause increased traffic and parking issues in the area effecting residential neighbors and businesses around it. The site is on 87<sup>th</sup> which, is a simple narrow two-lane street close to the Canyon intersection with minimal available parking. It is not the proper location for a funeral home, which must be located on wider access street with ample parking. This business will cause unwanted congestion because the site location and size of the lot. So, there will be more cars in the area and funeral home visitors will use the limited street parking spots and then will spill into the neighborhood streets and park in front of homes.

This is not a business that will provide the community or neighborhood a valuable common service that people could use on an on-going basis. There is no value add for the area. This is one-time service and that you dread and hope that you won't need for a long time. And if you do need it you don't want to be reminded of it on a daily basis as you pass by it.

Many of us are also very worried that Holman's Funeral & Cremation Service are only stating this is funeral home / service business to get the location. Then down the road they will look to make an amendment to business filling after they are established so they can add a crematorium. Yet another reason why this business should be classified as cemetery in case they continue to expand further in the death care industry. We believe this is just the first step and then they will look to expand, which will further devalue and disrupt this beloved community.

No one wants a funeral home next to their home or in their neighborhood it is constant reminder of death and loved ones lost. It is inappropriate to place a funeral home in the middle of neighborhood right next to people's homes. There is enough death on our minds with COVID that we don't need any additional reminders. Put yourselves in our situation would you want this funeral home only a few yards away from your home?

I hope you will take all of this into consideration when reviewing the decision that was made on the development proposal and do what is best for the neighborhood, community, and business environment by reversing the decision.

Sincerely

John McCarthy

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