

More than five years ago, St. Thomas' Parish members were asked to respond to a survey question: *Do you support growth?* Who would say no to such an innocent question? What I believed then to be a carefully phrased question designed to support the plans of the then and still current rector of St. Thomas' Parish, morphed into a \$10 million initial concept under the leadership of the rector. That plan was not grounded in reality and now, five years later, having gone through several architects and multiple redesigns and versions, they have just come to realize recently that their design requires a zoning variance? I think not.

Frankly, knowing the history of this project it sounds rather duplicitous to me that they have come this far along in the development process and say we now need a minor zoning variance to make this a feasible and cost effective package. This zoning issue should have been addressed a long time ago and the project does not deserve support for a zoning variance. What is the compelling reason that this project cannot be designed within the currently existing zoning regulations?

My opposition is not the small amount of space that is unlikely to become green space. It is a matter of principle. It sets a bad precedent every time an exception is granted, not just in this neighborhood but around the city. If the law and the zoning regulations are to mean anything they have to be upheld and enforced. Do not grant the variance; send them back to redesign it in compliance with the zoning regulations

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