

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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Good Evening,

My name is Colleen Russell. I am submitting this testimony for case #20389.

I am probably the newest neighbor (besides our new neighbors that this case involves), we moved in February of last year. One of the things that we really loved was the history and beauty of the colonial brick homes built in the 1930's. A new house, no matter how well done, would be a sore sight compared to the beauty of the homes around it. Especially next to that gorgeous "5 Arch House" as my mother-in-law named it, the house that our new neighbors purchased. My home is atop a hill so the roof of this proposed house would be in our line of vision. I do not want this house built.

Another thing that we love about this neighborhood is the feeling of family that our neighbors have given us, despite just moving in and immediately having to social distance. My home is atop a hill so the roof of this proposed house would be in our line of vision. Our neighbors have expressed disapproval and do not want this house built. I agree and I support their opposition. I understand why they are against this proposal. Many of our neighbors have been in their homes for not just decades, some have had their homes through multiple family generations. Our neighborhood is wonderful because of them. They don't want this house built and they deserve the respect of denying this proposal.

I would also like more information about the statement made by the proposers. On a Zoom with our council members, they said that building this second house was included in the purchase settlement. They said that they "have to" go through with the process, whether they "win or lose". I have never heard of anything like this so I would like a more detailed explanation than "we have to". Are they being pressured? My impression is that the owners seem like they don't even want to build the house. Instead, they are contractually bound. This makes me uneasy and I feel that an explanation is warranted.

Thank you for your time,
Colleen Russell

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