

January 9, 2015

Land Use Committee
Newton Board of Aldermen
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Re: DOCKET ITEM #475-14; 665 WATERTOWN STREET
THOMAS ENSELEK/S&H NEWTON REALTY PETITION FOR A SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE
PLAN APPROVAL TO EXTEND A NONCONFORMING USE ETC.

Dear Chairman Marc C. Laredo and Committee Members:

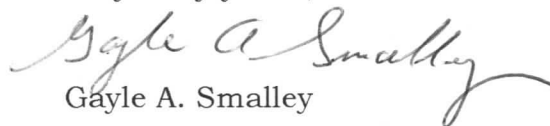
Please include this letter in the record concerning this petition, which is scheduled for public hearing on January 13, 2015. Thank you for your attention to my statement.

I write to offer my enthusiastic support of the petition. Speaking as a neighbor who lives within an easy walk of the premises, I feel strongly that the new frozen yogurt shop significantly enhances our community. During the autumn months it was a pleasure to walk over for an evening treat. The addition of seating, both indoor and outdoor, will not be detrimental to the neighborhood. To the contrary, year-round seating will provide the community with a fuller experience.

A great number of the yogurt shop's customers will walk,¹ but for those who are arriving in a motor vehicle, ample street parking is available. Watertown Street has a broad layout, yet with single lanes. In my experience, street parking on Watertown Street works nicely.

The site has been operated as a small commercial business for longer than anyone in this neighborhood can remember.² The grandfathered commercial site is convenient for nearby residents, motorists traveling on Route 16, residents at the Newton Housing Authority's Horace Mann Complex (72 units), and of course it is especially attractive to the young people at the adjacent elementary school, middle school, and Boys and Girls' Club.

Very truly yours,


Gayle A. Smalley

¹ Many of the yogurt shop's patrons are too young to drive! The older set includes many neighbors who will be motivated to "walk off" their yogurt treat.

² Petrillo's Grocery was an institution in this neighborhood until approximately five years ago. The 1940 City (*Polk*) Directory shows it was then operated as Petrillo's Grocery, and it may go back to at least 1917, given that the 1917 City Atlas shows C.P. Petrillo as property owner.