

## Betsy Poulin

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**From:** Christopher Shaw <flyingcopper95@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2016 12:18 PM  
**To:** Matt Nazar; Betsy Poulin; Christopher Shaw  
**Subject:** KBD1 Zoning

We are new to the downtown business area but not unfamiliar with its surroundings. Augusta and its downtown district has the potential to be something so much bigger. I know that I would like to see the Augusta downtown district become as popular a destination for shoppers as Hallowell, Waterville, Brunswick and many others. My husband and I have been to these locations and have felt comfortable walking the streets and visiting the different shops.

I have noticed since opening in June that there are many familiar people in the area that like to just walk the streets without a purpose and on occasion have approached me to panhandle or have come in to our restaurant thinking that it is a public restroom. We have also caught people using our porch areas as a place to sleep for the night.

My husband is a police officer for the city and has stayed as neutral as he can separating himself between the two. He patrols the streets and is familiar with many of the people that he has had previous contact with. The people that like to just hang around and loiter at different locations.

We both know that there is a necessity for the Bread of Life and the soup kitchen and that they have done an excellent job at providing services for those in need. I know that there was a proposal to move the soup kitchen and possibly the shelter to the St. Marks location behind the library. Although this would have made good use of the facility, it would have taken a toll on the surrounding community. If I lived in that community, I would have been upset by the move as well.

We all know that there is a need for the Bread of Life services but we all have those thoughts of “Not in my back yard”. I don’t think it would be any different if the Bread of Life wanted to move to the Ganneston area or to any of the nicer communities around. The big question is where to relocate the soup kitchen without offending anyone and at the same time taking it off of Water St. so that Augusta’s downtown district can grow as so many other downtown districts have. We are all looking for a more comfortable shopping experience.

The Augusta downtown district cannot handle the influx of people walking the streets waiting to get in and I am sure that the building they are currently in cannot handle the increase of people coming in. I understand there are plans to rezone the area we are in (KBD1) in an effort to allow them to expand in the downtown. This does not fall in line with the visions of having an attractive downtown where people will want to live and shop. If the Bread of Life is going to stay I would ask that they are not allowed to expand.

Respectfully,

Stacey and Chris Shaw “The Black & Tan”