

September 19, 2016

Dear Corey,

My name is Jesse Patkus and I own a building in downtown Augusta. I have lived there with my wife and children for the past five years before we recently purchased a house in the West Side neighborhood.

I am writing to you because I am concerned about the compatibility of both Homeless Shelters and Soup Kitchens under the new definitions with other existing uses in Augusta's Downtown (KBD1). At the last planning board meeting I heard a number of concerns addressing these types of uses and their potential impact on residential neighborhoods, but I heard very little about the current impact they are having on the city's downtown and the merchants who have invested in our community. In the past five years a number of historic buildings have been purchased and renovated with most of them offering residential units on the upper floors. I have witnessed firsthand a number of challenges that occur when these types of social services are grouped in close proximity to both residential units and small businesses, which currently make up the majority of our downtown. It is clearly stated in the city's code of ordinances that the purpose of "the KBD1 District is devoted primarily to general merchandise sales, business and professional offices and restaurants." I question whether these types of social services that were permitted over a decade ago are still compatible with (KBD1) Downtown of today. The majority of merchants located downtown are locally owned small businesses that have invested everything they have into revitalizing our downtown. Everyday, more and more young families are moving into the residential units available on the upper floors and it is for this reason, I ask that you consider eliminating Shelters and Soup Kitchens as future permitted uses in the (KBD1). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jesse Patkus