

Hon. Timothy Lewis and the Members of the Charlotte City Council
City of Charlotte
111 E. Lawrence Ave.
Charlotte, MI 48813

September 13, 2017

Dear Mayor Lewis and members of the City Council:

Greetings. Please accept my thanks for the honor you did me in conferring a seat on the Charlotte Planning Commission upon me. I have enjoyed my service, and the trust my colleagues expressed in choosing me to be their Chairman these last two years. However, I regret to inform you that I am resigning, effective immediately. I must do so because of the Council's 6-0 vote to set aside the 8-1 vote of our Planning Commission in recommending that the proposed rezoning of the Dairy Queen properties. If Council had voted 4-3 to set aside a 5-4 vote the other way, I could understand it, but to reverse your own appointees so sharply, with no substantive reason given, leaves me to conclude that I can no longer, in good conscience, continue to serve. I hope that, in choosing my replacement, I hope that you will take time to reflect on what the function of a Planning Commission is, and under what circumstances – conflict of interest, errors as to fact or law – you might set aside the work of the volunteers you appoint to it. Otherwise, you leave your Planning Commission open to second-guessing and undermine their ability to perform their function, to the ultimate detriment of our community.

Your Planning Commission did not act in ignorance nor in haste. Our decision was reasonable and you offered no substantive reasons for setting our recommendation aside. While it is your prerogative to do so and while I do not question your motives in so doing, the manner in which this was handled was not good. I respectfully suggest, that you meet with your Planning Commission, offer them an explanation and an apology, listen to what my colleagues, whose service and comradeship I esteem and shall miss, have to say, and come away from this the better for the experience.

In closing, I am reluctant to depart my post, but I could not, in good faith, support any plan for Dairy Queen that did not envision retaining the current, and appropriate, zoning of these properties as 'residential.' I also believe that it would not be proper for me, as an appointee, to publicly criticize the decisions of the elected officials who entrusted me with office, and as I am compelled to speak out on this matter, my resignation is a necessity.

Thank you for letting me serve Charlotte. I wish you, personally, the best and hope that we can work together in the future for the good of our hometown.

Respectfully,

-Lloyd A. Conway