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Concerned about Good Market

The following petition was signed by 72 neighbors of the proposed food market at 12 W. Willow Grove Ave.

"We are concerned about plans to open a food market in the middle of our residential area. We fear that such a business will negatively affect the quality of our lives, the value of our homes and even jeopardize our safety by:

"Bringing in more traffic to an already saturated residential street. The hours of operation from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. will crate continual traffic flow on a road that already experiences heavy volume.

"In spite of its large size, the Good Food Market has no assigned parking. With Roanoke Garage on one side and the soon to be opened nail salon on the other, residents will end up parking blocks away.

"Starting early in the morning, the daily truck deliveries will bring fumes, noise and congestion to an already heavily traveled residential street. Note: these trucks will have to pass through Springfield and Crefeld streets.

"A food market will generate litter, problems with trash storage/disposal and create attendant unpleasant odors especially on hot days."

Quita Horan
William Washburn
Mike Flynn
Kate Cleveland
Susan Miller
And 67 other Chestnut Hill residents

The Market responds

One of the reasons most of us choose to live in Chestnut Hill instead of the Main Line or Blue Bell is because we want to live in a "walkable community." I couldn't agree with this sentiment more. That is why I designed Good Food Market as an urban market and why I intend to encourage foot traffic over car traffic. I'm personally excited that the market is so close to me that I intend to bike to work and leave my car at home.

When I was looking for spaces on the hill for the market, I was drawn to the intersection of

Germantown Ave and Willow Grove for several reasons. The first, and most significant here, is that I live less than a half mile away and, quite selfishly, I always wanted this empty corner to be a vibrant and relevant shopping corner where I could walk every day with my kids. I believe this adds quality to my life here and increases my property's value to my family.

The empty storefronts on the corner of Germantown and Willow Grove avenues is a negative we all face. No one feels it more acutely than my neighbors on Willow Grove who are tied to their cars and must drive everywhere to get all their basic needs.

The neighbors that I have been lucky to meet (who have stopped me while I am at the space or who visit my Web site, www.goodfoodmarket.net, and who send me emails) tell me that they are excited about the opportunity to forget their cars and tell me how thankful they are.

They see increased activity by the addition of Good Food Market as a way of providing them with a new convenience, a valued service, a beautifully restored building as well as added safety and security where neglect and decay in this commercial structure currently detracts from the beauty of their homes.

I welcome every opportunity to meet all my neighbors and to speak to each one individually about their needs and desires. Good Food Market is and will be a friendly local market created FOR its neighbors where your concerns are our concerns! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives. I encourage all voices and hope to hear from you at jennifer@goodfoodmarket.net or by phone at 215-242-0716.

Jennifer Zoga
Founder of Good Food Market

Humbled

I am a fledgling member of the "old timers" group (past 80 years) of VFW 5005. I must admit to a recent "eye problem."

After the lovely celebration on Memorial Day at Our Mother of Consolation Church, we VFW comrades marched out to close that part of the service. As we did, those in attendance started applauding us as we left.

"America the Beautiful" had been sung by all, the homily was great and now the handclapping. This is what brought on the "watery eye" problem.

I was humbled and very much surprised and appreciative — thanks very much.

Jim Mac Eachern
Blue Bell

Guantanamo Bay

Dear Mr. and Mrs. North America:

I know you've seen my name, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, recently and in the last several years where I house people you call "terrorists". But I would guess there's little else you really know about me.

First, my real family is the sovereign nation of Cuba. But I was "adopted" by your country in 1903, not that I was looking to be adopted. You see, I was part of the "spoils" coming out of the Spanish-American War of 1898, when you "liberated" Cuba and my cousins, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, from Spain.

But "liberation" was only one side of the coin flipped by the United States, as the Cubans, Puerto Ricans and the Filipinos can attest to.

The U.S. invoked the Platt Amendment giving your country "the right to intervene"

In my homeland of Cuba, the U.S. also has, through the original agreement of 1903 and the Treaty of 1934, a perpetual lease on all 28,000 acres of me, Guantanamo Bay. And here's the kicker. This "lease" is capable of being voided only by you deciding to leave or by mutual agreement between you and Cuba.

Thus, under the terms of the lease forced upon us, you, the U.S., can continue with the present status for as long as you like.

"As long as you like." Sounds kind of one-sided, don't you think?

So next time you hear my name, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, you'll have a fuller understanding of who I am, who I really belong to, and with whom I should and want to be with.

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
Lawrence H. Geller
Logan