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FEB - 6 2003

Rapid City  
Planning Department

February 5, 2003

Re: City Planning Dept. File # 03RZ002 - Section 14, T1N, R7E

Dear Commissioners,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I sent to the Commissioners dated November 11, 2002 to ensure that all commissioners have an opportunity to hear my objections. My property will be the most negatively impacted by allowing the requested zoning change except for the home of Mr. Tom O'Mara who lives immediately adjacent to the proposed funeral home location. Indeed this issue concerns me and is the subject of this additional letter to you.

I find it extraordinarily suspicious that Mr. O'Mara would welcome the development of a funeral home and the necessary infrastructure immediately adjacent to a home that he resides in and built only a few years ago. In fact, his house which is a log home reflects the rural nature of the neighborhood. Before he built this home, he specifically asked me if I would object if he erected a log home there. I assured him that I would not and we discussed his plans and how it would enhance the rural nature of our area. He then proceeded to build an attractive log and stone home across the road from my property. A funeral home located in the extreme northeast corner of the property in question would be only a few feet away from Mr. O'Mara's home and would result in a dramatic loss in the residential value of his house.

Mr. O'Mara recently has become a member of the Board of the Pine Lawn Cemetery organization. This alliance, in light of his accommodation with the zoning change, suggests that Mr. O'Mara and the principals of the Pine Lawn Cemetery Corporation may have plans that have not been shared with the commissioners. Otherwise, why did Mr. Kastor invite Mr. O'Mara to assume this position and why hasn't Mr. O'Mara not objected to this zoning change?

I suggest that if any commissioner had recently built a home in that location and inhabited that home, they would be unequivocally opposed to such a re-zoning. Indeed, the facts suggest some duplicity in the relationship of Mr. O'Mara and the Pine Lawn Cemetery and raises the question of what the over-all intentions are for this property.

I do not feel that my concerns are exaggerated nor are they impetuous. I have been very careful and deliberate in arriving at my assessment and concerns.

Respectfully,



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November 11, 2002

**RE: Hearing for Zoning Request**

**File Number: 02RZ067**

Dear Commission Members,

The Petition for Rezoning from General Agriculture District to General Commercial District by Pine Lawn Memorial Park, Inc. should be denied.

The intention of Pine Lawn Memorial Park, Inc. is to construct a funeral home on the property under consideration. The only access road to the property narrowly accommodates two car widths and is without any road shoulder whatsoever. Furthermore, there is no terrain in the area which would accommodate extra traffic lanes or road shoulders except at an extraordinary expense. Tower Road in that area is not designed for safe ingress and egress especially during the evening hours, for the road is extremely dark at night for it is unlit, added to which there is a dense deer population. In order to accommodate funeral home visitors, many of whom travel there at night, street lights and road improvements would have to be made. Those minimal improvements would be necessary in order to insure the safety of both the visitors and home dwellers, already residing in the immediate area.

As you are aware, the location of that property is at the intersection of Tower Road and Skyline Ranch Road, the latter a private road on which the properties have a Forest-Park zoning designation. This area is served by a portion of Tower Road which is at best of a rural type. Any increase in traffic in this area would not only negatively impact all the homes located on Skyline Ranch Road by changing the residential integrity of the area, but it would prove to be a serious safety hazard.

Even now when there is a burial attended by an unusually large number, parking is a problem and it spills over onto Skyline Ranch Road but especially onto my

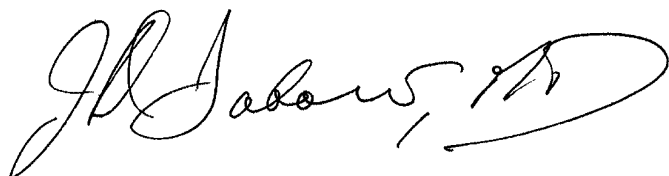
property. The added traffic, especially during the evening hours would create a further inconvenience, an increased safety hazard and be disruptive to the tranquility of the neighborhood, especially when one considers the installation of lights that would be necessary to accommodate this proposed new commercial enterprise.

Furthermore, a careful inspection of the proposed site plan will clearly show the problems that will be encountered. There simply is not enough space to accommodate a funeral home, driveway for the hearse and other funeral vehicles, as well as visitor and staff parking. If a funeral home was to be constructed in this area, it should be designed with the same rural park like qualities that is demanded of the homeowners. However, the land under consideration cannot accommodate this type of site plan.

Even though there is a motel in the adjacent area, that business closes during the dark evening hours of the winter months. Furthermore, traffic to and from this relatively small motel is sporadic and quite different than the traffic congestion that would necessarily occur at the proposed funeral home.

Commissioners, there are too many reasons to outline here that should mitigate against granting this request or even considering it seriously. It is highly unlikely that my neighbors would agree to the proposed zoning change.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. H. Sabers, Jr.", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.