From: Samantha Wittig
To: Council Clerk; Kevin Rider; Carolyn Riggle; Anna Kelsey; Sandra Pereira
Subject: Hotel Proposition Concerns
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 5:57:09 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I would not buy a house next to a hotel. And I doubt I am the only buyer who feels that way. That is property value.

Call it a boutique hotel, an inn, or a bed and breakfast. I don't care. Nine rooms of transient guests means cars, turnover and commercial activity on a residential corner that is already too tight for it. NINE ROOMS OF TRANSIENT GUESTS.

There is nothing small about that when it is next door to your home.

Other communities recognize the obvious: transient lodging can affect neighboring property values, the enjoyment of nearby homes, traffic, parking and residential character. Those things matter because these are people's
homes, not vacant parcels waiting around for somebody else's business plan.

What disgusts me is how casually the risk gets handed to the homeowners. The applicant doesn't own this property. He has not proposed that he will spend his future personally running this hotel. The operation depends on somebody else.

He gets the opportunity. Somebody else gets the business. We get the consequences. No thank you.

And please stop telling us this is about saving a building. Do not pretend the only way to preserve it is to commercialize it. The neighborhood is already doing just fine. It is occupied. It is maintained. It is loved.

People have spent hundreds of thousands of their own money restoring these homes and keeping this neighborhood desirable. We are not standing in the way of preservation. We are the neighborhood you claim to be preserving.

Businesses come and go. Concepts come and go. Investors come and go. Homeowners stay. We provide the stability that makes Delaware worth investing in. Yet somehow, this developer comes along, and our homes become the convenient place to put the risk.

If nine transient guest rooms are such an insignificant intrusion into a residential neighborhood, put them next to your house. Don't volunteer mine.

We want downtown Delaware to thrive. But loving this city does not require us to surrender the distinction between downtown and our backyard. Do not mistake our investment in this neighborhood for permission to commercialize it.

There are plenty of places in Delaware for another business. There are not plenty of places we get to call home.

An investor can move on to the next project. We will still be here, living with the consequences of this one.

Sincerely,

Samantha Wittig