

From: [irishshop](#)
To: [Zoning](#)
Subject: Fwd: zoning change for 103 N Oak Park Ave PIN 16-07-129-036-1002
Date: Thursday, September 17, 2020 4:57:50 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **irishshop** <theirishshop@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 4:51 PM
Subject: zoning change for 103 N Oak Park Ave PIN 16-07-129-036-1002
To: <Zoning@oak-park.usa>

Dear Board Members and Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb

-- My name is Jim August and I own and operate The Irish Shop at 100 N Oak Park Ave. I have been in business since 1991 and Oak Park has been home to three of my businesses. Over the years I have seen our retail community in the Hemingway District continue to shrink mainly due to zoning variances for what is termed hardship cases. These variances remove viable retail space as mandated by our transit overlay zoning ordinance. Every loss of retail space actually creates a hardship to existing retailers who have made considerable investments of time and money and as our retail presence shrinks so does foot traffic and revenue.

I have heard it said that no one is looking for retail space and anything is better than nothing, but is this really true. Covid-19 has definitely had a negative impact on all businesses. but eliminating viable retail space will be more detrimental with long lasting consequences for all of our businesses. I urge the board to deny the zoning variance to allow a driving school in our oldest Business District, and develop initiatives to encourage entrepreneurs with local roots to invest in our community as I did thirty years ago.

Jim August

The Irish Shop
100 N. Oak Park Ave
Oak Park, IL 60301
708-445-1149

--

The Irish Shop
100 N. Oak Park Ave
Oak Park, IL 60301
708-445-1149