

Hello,

I am writing this email in regard to an application that has been made to the City of Burlington to build high rise buildings right in the downtown core. If this application is approved, Kelly's and other incredible businesses that contribute to the unique and charming character of the city will be forced out. I strongly believe that replacing the unique stores with housing would destroy the amazing vibe that the current downtown offers. I have many food sensitivities and I visit Kelly's Bake Shoppe frequently. Every time I am there it is always busy - one recent Saturday I waited in a line that was at least 20 people long - I overheard many conversations about people that had traveled a great distance to visit Kelly's... this business is bringing people into our city - forcing them to leave would be a poor decision. I recently recommended Kelly's to a friend and they visited and was raving about the entire experience. It is not solely about finding some Vegan treats - these I can find at most stores - it is about the entire experience. I have grown up my entire life in Burlington and for a long while our downtown was not appealing and it was like a ghost town - now today it has transformed into a lively core that young and old enjoy visiting. I believe that if you accept the application to replace these businesses with housing that you essentially would be destroying this. I have shared this possibility with many of my friends and coworkers and they all agree that the beauty and charm of Burlington's downtown is based on the unique stores that line the streets. I honestly believe that there are many locations that housing can be placed - in fact housing is taking away so much of our city. I believe the least that the City of Burlington can do is to protect the charming downtown that we have.... it has taken hard work to build this area to what it is today. Please consider supporting these small businesses and reject the application that has been proposed by the developers.

Thank you for your time in this matter,

Lynn Devine