

Powell, Greg

Subject: FW: thai temple

-----Original Message-----

From: zero@hoseman.org [mailto:zero@hoseman.org]

Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 7:55 PM

To: Ross, Steven D.

Subject: thai temple

Mr Ross,

As a lifelong resident of Berkeley, I'm writing on behalf of the integrity of our residential neighborhoods. For 25 years the Thai Temple on Oregon St has been running a crowded weekend restaurant in a residential neighborhood. Not only is this a violation of the zoning ordinance it is a violation of the permit that the city granted them in the mid 90's. I have a solution to this neighborhood problem: If the temple wishes to run a weekly restaurant they may do it one block away at the Ashby Flea Market. It keeps them in their neighborhood and it keeps the restaurant out of our backyards. Please don't bow to the pressure of their many customers. This operation has existed as a restaurant for far to long. They've had reviews in The SF Chronicle, and the Tribune food and dining sections. They've even been reviewed as a dining hot spot in The New Yorker. Protect our neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Nate Brownlow

510 710 0801

Powell, Greg**Subject:** FW: 1911 Russell1911Russell_respon ATT1161548.txt
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-----Original Message-----

From: Bonnie Borucki [mailto:bcb@bborucki.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 12:39 PM
To: Ross, Steven D.
Subject: 1911 Russell

Please distribute the following letter to ZAB members. It is also attached as a formatted Word doc.

1927 Oregon St.
Berkeley, CA 94703
March 11, 2009

Steven Ross, Secretary, and
Zoning Adjustment Board Members
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mr. Ross and Members of the Zoning Adjustment Board:

I am very confused and disturbed at seeing the letter from Miguel Montes, dated February 22, 2009, included in your agenda items for the 3/12/09 ZAB meeting. Mr. Montes clearly has no understanding of the neighborhood's concerns, or the responsibilities of a zoning board. His suggestion has twisted the grievances of neighbors regarding food preparation odors & noise into yet another solution that would bring huge benefits to the Temple while masking these benefits into efforts to accommodate neighbor's concerns over very real, but more superficial issues.

The larger issue is the Temple's full expansion plan, which Mr. Montes refers to in his letter, and the Temple's ability to politically organize and influence public policy in regards to this neighborhood zoning issue. After Temple members & supporters repeatedly stated that the food service is a cultural custom to serve the monks, not a commercial enterprise, Mr. Montes is suggesting granting a zoning permit for a commercial kitchen. Even more outrageous is the suggestion of selling public property to the Temple for their expansion. If the Temple is struggling to meet financial needs, and the Sunday food service is necessary for their survival, how do they have funds immediately available to purchase and renovate the South Branch Library?

I hope this letter will cast some light on the neighborhood's larger concerns with the Temple's expansion plans, which are displacing other neighborhood institutions and meeting their own needs while claiming to serve the neighborhood. I once enjoyed purchasing food at the Temple, and even attended a ZAB Board meeting myself in the early 1990s as a Thai Temple supporter when I lived a few blocks away on

MLK. At that time I was completely unaware of the zoning permit issues and thought the main concerns of neighbors were trash left by Sunday brunch customers.

As a closer neighbor of the Temple, I can see that Temple members are using their popularity to manipulate public opinion. I am asking for the ZAB to hold the Temple more accountable for future permit violations, and to regard Mr. Montes' suggestion allowing the Temple to purchase the South Branch Library as an opportunistic ploy.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Borucki