

Fro: Tim Teran <timteran15@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 12:11 PM

To: Joann Ricciardelli <selectasst@haddam.org>; chipfrey@comcast.net; Michael Arseneault <mwarseneault@gmail.com>

Cc: Gretchen Teran <gretchenteran@gmail.com>

Subject: Tatoo Parlor

To: Haddam BOS & P&Z,

We are writing to you to express our opinion about the *location* of the new tattoo parlor in Higganum.

We are purposely talking about the *location* because we are in favor of all businesses that wish to come to our village. If the Tattoo Parlor has enough demand to grow in our town we are thrilled for them and for the incremental tax base it will afford.

What *we are NOT OK with is the location*. Think for a moment about the first impression Higganum Center makes on visitors ... from the west the first thing you see is The Truck Bar and then waiting for the light at the intersection of Rte 81 and 154 the only thing you see is the Tattoo Parlor, ... from the north the first thing you see is Dunkin Donuts, ... and from the south the first business sign you see is the Tattoo Parlor. Now consider these impressions in light of what the people of Higganum in the various Charrettes and POCDs have said we want our town to be known for. We do not believe the majority view from the charrettes was for these businesses to represent our town.

Fast food, bars and tattoos are a part of America but should not be the first impressions one gets of a town that is seeking to define its future as an outdoors mecca for families and adventurers, a town that is seeking to attract new young families to fuel our businesses and our schools.

We would recommend the town help the Tattoo Parlor find a location that has curb appeal but doesn't define our town's visual image -- literally sitting at the crossroads of our town center. For those who might say but that means making it less visible to the "passerby". Getting a tattoo should be a considered decision by people who know where to get them -- and those who want one do know where to get one. So having a location smack dab in the middle of our prime intersection is not likely to be a business driver but it certainly will be a deterrent to some folks who might want to visit our town or move here.

If the owners of the Tattoo Parlor cannot find other more suitable-places to rent from the private sector, then let us suggest that the town offer to rent them space on the numerous buildings it owns that go unoccupied today. The town needs the income and more occupied buildings means a more thriving town.

Finally, we understand the difficulty the landlords have in renting the space occupied by The Tattoo Parlor. Numerous businesses have tried and failed in that location and we recognize the additional limitations put on it because of the lack of adequate septic. But unfortunately those are the conditions that exist today and the people who own it knew the challenges when they bought it. We are hopeful that they can find suitable tenants because not only will it be good for them but good for our town.

Sincerely,

Tim & Gretchen Teran