

Communication from Public

Name: Michael F

Date Submitted: 04/01/2022 04:30 PM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Dear PLUM committee, I live near Evans Street West and I've seen, and personally experienced, the trouble residents have with the Christmas Tree Lot that operates there during Thanksgiving and through Christmas. With all the noise and traffic, it's an accident waiting to happen. The trucks coming and going act like they own the road and it's an unmitigated nightmare. In talking to the police, they say they can't do anything until someone hits something. Honestly, Evans street is just too narrow and small for that much traffic. Additionally, while it's in operation, parking is impossible to find and driveways are often blocked. It's situations like this that ruin the Christmas season for all residents in the area! I'm astonished that the owners of that lot have been allowed to operate for so many years while flagrantly breaking the rules. Please tell the city council to ban tree lots in residential zones like Evans Street.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 08:14 PM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Evans Street, I am strongly urging the council to vote to approve the motion regarding ceasing the issuing of Christmas tree operation permits in zones designated as R2. The sound of constant hammering, music and talking throughout the entirety of the day is very problematic. The lot causes traffic jams and lack of street parking, along with people loitering at times. It is hard to relax or concentrate at home because the noise is so loud. I should not have to feel like I need flee from my own home to get peace and quiet. Even with my windows and doors closed, the noise is quite overbearing. For the aforementioned reasons, I urge the council to stop allowing Christmas tree lots to operate in residential zones. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,
Ninotchka McTaggart

Communication from Public

Name: Christopher Hain

Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 09:08 PM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: This should be a really simple decision. Does residential zoning mean something or not? The Christmas Tree Lot on Evans Street, just like the one in the parking lot of Home Depot, or anywhere else, is not only NOT a residential use, it is BOTH an INDUSTRIAL and a RETAIL use. Yes, everyone loves Christmas trees. Yes, they make little children happy and bring families together. Yes, everyone loves and wants to support small business. But these are NOT the issues here. You wouldn't put a Christmas candy factory in a residential neighborhood. You wouldn't put a tree ornament warehousing and shipping business in a residential neighborhood. You wouldn't allow a toy store, or a store selling mulled wine and egg nog in a residential neighborhood. You see, it's NOT about the holidays. It's not about a small business. It's not about a seasonal business. It's about the noise and disruption of the residential neighborhood. And just like all of the Christmas examples I just gave, whether big business or small, whether industrial or retail, they are all simply too disruptive for a residential neighborhood. And a Christmas tree lot combines all the worst, most intrusive elements of all the above holiday businesses -- big or small, retail or industrial. Specifically: * Hammering * Electric saws * The loud banging of loading and unloading of pallets and pipes * The grumbling and idling of industrial trucks * The congestion, honking, exhaust and noise of a parking lot * The bright, invasive lights of a late-night retail operation * The early morning hubbub of an industrial shipping/warehousing operation There is simply no rational argument to support a business that looks and acts like both an industrial and retail operation on a narrow, otherwise quiet residential street. If this type of use is allowed in a residential zone, there's no point for residential zones. There's no point protecting the peace and quiet of residential neighborhoods. And in that case, why even have Planning, Zoning, and Land Use. Yes, this issue is a no-brainer: Ban Christmas Tree Lots in Residential Zones. Period.

Communication from Public

Name: H. Franklin

Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 09:16 PM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Residents of Evans Street have been waiting a long long time for some help - some relief from a holiday tree lot that is incredibly noisy and disruptive to the neighborhood and whose operators are aggressive and rude. Commercial businesses don't belong in residential zones especially when they are run by people who baldly break the law with apparent glee and without consequence. They build their site weeks before Thanksgiving and construct illegal tenting that covers a whole lot. They start sales before it's legal. They are open for business including the almost continual sawing and hammering of their product from 8 am - past 10 pm, 7 days a week. They load big pickups and trailers with trees they have prepared on Evans street to probably sell elsewhere. The trucks block traffic and cause traffic jams that are dangerous. They've had sixteen wheelers full of trees block our street. I don't know how they get away with it. Does that sound like a quaint family business? The current permit does not have the ability to reign them in. And they don't deserve to be issued a permit since they haven't abided by it for years. Big commercial operations don't belong in a residential zone...too much impact on the community. Folks who don't live here may think it's sweet to shop "locally". But they don't have to live with it. There are plenty of tree lots that are in local commercial zoning. Please recommend to the city council to change the law so that tree lots aren't allowed in multi dwelling zones.

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Billingsly

Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 09:36 PM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: To the PLUM committee, I'm writing to voice my concerns over the Christmas tree lot that operates on Evans St from November to December. This is a residential neighborhood with narrow streets, and I'm not sure why a wholesale business is allowed to operate here, or break so many rules, but it's really time for it to go. The noise is disruptive, their trucks block driveways, and obstruct the view of oncoming traffic, and their customers take up the precious few parking spots needed for residents and their visitors. It's time for this business to locate to a more suitable location, and to leave our neighborhood in peace. Thank you for your time in this matter. Best regards, Matt

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Billingsly

Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 09:38 PM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: To the PLUM committee, I'm writing to voice my concerns over the Christmas tree lot that operates on Evans St from November to December. This is a residential neighborhood with narrow streets, and I'm not sure why a wholesale business is allowed to operate here, or break so many rules, but it's really time for it to go. The noise is disruptive, their trucks block driveways, and obstruct the view of oncoming traffic, and their customers take up the precious few parking spots needed for residents and their visitors. It's time for this business to locate to a more suitable location, and to leave our neighborhood in peace. Thank you for your time in this matter. Best regards, Matt

Communication from Public

Name: Mike M.

Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 10:22 PM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: I live across the street from a Christmas tree lot on Evans Street. Please ban commercial tree lots from R2 zones. You can't imagine the noise that starts well before Thanksgiving and goes on every day from early morning till at least 10PM for over 6 weeks. It's nerve rattling. The trucks that come and go picking up huge batches of trees cause traffic snarls and it's unsafe. Also the shoppers take up parking that residents already have a hard time finding and they also block driveways. A business this big with this much noisy foot traffic should not be in a residential zone. The zoning laws are to protect residents. Please recommend a way to alter the city code so that R2 lots get the same treatment as other residential zones.

Communication from Public

Name: Eric Gruendemann

Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 06:08 PM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Dear PLUM Committee, I have been shocked and appalled for the past few years now seeing what our friends who live on Evan Street near the Christmas Tree Lot have had to endure. How this business, or any business with this kind of all-hours traffic, noise and congestion, can operate in a clearly residential zone is beyond me. I have personally been unable to pass when trucks are unloading or loading trees, not able to park within three blocks during peak sales times and witnessed firsthand the loud noise of saws, loud yelling, noxious petroleum (and other...) fumes and general unruliness of the operators at hours well outside what even they told us were "approved." Evans Street is narrow. It's residential. There are families with young children and street parking already comes at a premium. I realize there is a church at the end of the street, but even they provide their own off-street parking and the "rush" is for one morning a week and largely concentrated on the nearby artery street. This barrage is constant for 7 days a week and 5 - 6 weeks at least. It's not right and it's not fair and you need to enforce or re-zone the area so these kinds of businesses are not allowed to subvert the local residents' rights to safety, serenity and sanity. Please ban tree lots in residential zones like Evans Street and any others like it. Thank You.

Communication from Public

Name: Patricia Manney
Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 04:51 PM
Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: To the PLUM committee, I live near Evans Street. Residents and visitors have trouble with the Christmas Tree Lot that operates there during Thanksgiving and through Christmas. It's a nightmare for them. I've heard the continual loud banging and sawing that seems continuous and seen near miss accidents caused by so many big trucks coming and going from the lot. Evans street is too narrow and small for that much traffic. While it's in operation, we can't find parking in the evenings after work. I've seen driveways blocked by both trucks and patrons. When I enquired as to the legality of parking, times of operation, noise ordinances and the like, I discovered the city them a permit on false grounds! And when neighbors complain, they are told lies. Why has this been ignored by the city for so many years? Send the tree lot to a commercial street, not on a tiny residential street. The owners of the lot have taken gross advantage of the residents for too long. Please tell the city council to ban tree lots in residential zones like Evans Street.

Communication from Public

Name: Kasey Karinen

Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 12:34 PM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: I would like to formally complain and request that the Christmas Tree Lot on Evans Street be banned based on the fact that our street is a residential street, and the Tree Lot causes havoc during the holiday season. They block our street with trucks constantly, make noise until 10pm+, and are generally not neighborly. We have a small child, and with the street constantly being blocked by traffic, we would have no way of getting to the hospital if god forbid an emergency would take place. Thank you for consideration. I'm all about small businesses, but think there is a place for them, and I would like to request that this place is not on the residential street of Evans.

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth

Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 10:59 AM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: Please, please, recommend amending the city code so that Pumpkin and Christmas trees sales cannot be conducted in two family dwelling and multiple dwelling residential zones. The Christmas tree lot that operates at 3843 Evans Street has morphed into a massive commercial business. It hurts our neighborhood by causing dangerous traffic congestion, reduces our limited parking and creates a hellish level of noise with continual sawing and banging for almost two months each year. The cacophony starts early in the morning and continues sometimes till almost midnight. Each year the operators knowingly break the law with impunity. They construct tents 3 times the size and number allowed by the permit. They conduct wholesales so that their business often operates as a lumberyard. I am not exaggerating when I say there is continual activity and soul searing noise. They stay open till at least ten at night and this year, many nights, the noise continued to midnight. They sell trees outside the permitted dates (they even advertise illegal dates). They have been cited many times but cheerfully pay the low fines and flaunt the law. Residents suffer the tree lot impact for almost two months every year. We ask your help in achieving parity with the other residential zones that have protection from such a disturbance of the peace.

Communication from Public

Name: Todd B.

Date Submitted: 04/03/2022 11:45 AM

Council File No: 22-0147

Comments for Public Posting: It would be so great if you ban tree lots from Evans St. I and many of my neighbors would really appreciate it. The tree lot that sets up shop from Thanksgiving through Christmas, right next to the little school, creates too much noise and confusion for way too long. They bring in big trucks with trees as they constantly come and go constantly. Those big trucks don't know how to navigate our narrow street. One time, I saw a truck loaded with trees go up over the curb and almost tip over. I'm very tired of strangers coming into my neighborhood to shop for trees and cheerfully blocking my driveway. And the noise! From early in the morning till late at night. Workmen yelling, sawing and banging metal on metal , hammering tree stands, shoppers screaming and chattering. It completely shatters the peace of the neighborhood. I know they don't allow these lots in other residential neighborhoods so why do we have to suffer. Please help. Ban tree lots from operating in residential zones. Thank you Todd B.