

From: Mari Weiss [mailto:dramamamamari@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 11:38 AM
To: Sarah Williamson
Subject: Colleton Crossing

Dear Sarah,

If you would be so kind as to distribute this to His Honorable Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, I would be most appreciative.

Thank you!

Mari Weiss

Dear Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen,

I was listening to President Obama's speech to the graduating class of Notre Dame. He mentioned many times the rights of the Citizens of the United States of America, and our ability to be divided by an issue, yet hear one another's points of view and try to come to compromises that perhaps did not satisfy both sides, but bridged the gap.

After six months of waiting for some movement by Melville Builders to either hear our side, or bridge the gap, I find that we, The Citizens of Carrboro, are left in exactly the same situation as we were the Tuesday before Thanksgiving: Thirty-nine dwellings to be know as Colleton Crossing, connected by a road through our beautiful woods and Bolin Creek, to more dwellings to be built as Carolina Commons, to Claymore Road. ONE THOUSAND more car trips a day, by their own traffic study, on what are already substandard roads, two designated school walk zones IN THE STREET, six school bus stops, morning and afternoon, and streets where the residents of the 100 homes of the Highlands walk, bike, jog, play, and congregate.

I guess what struck me about President Obama's speech was that he spoke of the rights of Citizens. We are the Citizens of

Carrboro. We pay taxes, we vote, we patronize Carrboro businesses, we live in the Town of Carrboro right now.

We are not some amorphous future citizen who may or may not buy one of these houses. We live here now, and our rights should come before any proposed housing tract, business proposition, or future property tax that may be assessed.

You have been told by us, the citizens, that putting more cars on our streets is dangerous. The Town of Carrboro has been put on notice that you are creating a dangerous situation. It is not IF someone will be struck by a vehicle, but WHEN. In the law, "notice" is a very important factor to culpability. You have been warned. Proceed with caution.

I watch my neighbors, as they play with their children around five o'clock every afternoon. As I walk my dog I observe about five families with many small children and what I affectionately call the trike brigade. The children are on bikes with training wheels, skates, tricycles, scooters, and in strollers. About every three to five minutes one of the parents calls out "car" and all the children move from the asphalt street over to the grass shoulders to allow the car to pass. Our narrow streets without sidewalks, curbs or gutters are the only place the Citizens of the Highlands have to walk, play and congregate. Frankly, what you are proposing is unthinkable, given the fact that no one is going to upgrade our streets to make them safer.

And then there is the big picture. It is to no one's credit that Carrboro is the fastest growing town in North Carolina. A sad statistic, really, as I drive down Homestead Road, the major artery for North Carrboro, and see new housing development after development, all feeding out onto Homestead Road, a one lane road in each direction, with no thought to commerce to accommodate all the new housing. Not a market, a dry cleaners,

a convenience store, nothing. Who is looking at the big picture? What about the new day care center at Winmore? How do you imagine that Homestead can bear all this new traffic, given the bottleneck around the high school, and all the additional cars that will be added. Just where do you think even the additional thousand car trips a day from the Highlands will end up? There are other ways to balance a budget besides a glut of houses that create revenue but destroy quality of life.

In this, a voting year, I beseech you to show a little temperance, and a little common sense. This is bad business, bad policy, and bad government.

Thank you.

Mari Weiss