

From: [Kalargyrou, Valentini](#)
To: [Karen Edwards](#); [Rick Taintor](#)
Subject: Durham Plaza
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:39:25 PM

Dear Planning Board Members,

I hope everyone is keeping safe and strong during these challenging times. I would like to introduce myself. My husband and I have been Durham residents since 2009 and I am an associate professor with the hospitality management program in Paul College Business and Economics and a Fulbright scholar.

I have been listening about the Plaza proposal for quite a while now and I wanted to share my thoughts with you.

We own a house right behind Durham's Post Office in Cowell drive neighborhood, so we practically live downtown Durham. The traffic has considerably increased after RiverWoods retirement community has opened and since then, it takes us double the time to get in and out the town, especially, since there are not a lot of alternative roads.

In addition, student housing is saturated especially since UNH is expecting a decline in student enrollment and, already, the existing landlords are struggling to rent their places. So adding more beds is not the right solution, especially now with the added fear of COVID-19 where instruction might permanently alter from face-to-face to online or hybrid.

On the other hand, Durham residents need more retail space. When I first moved to NH from Las Vegas (I know that is a huge transition) I thought that Durham downtown would look similar to Exeter's and I was disappointed to see restricted dining and shopping choices for the residents. We need more places we can socialize with our neighbors and spend our money. Why would we go and spend them in Dover or Portsmouth? We are capable of providing our residents with more shopping, restaurants and entertainment options where they can go relax and interact with each other.

We need to strengthen the heart of Durham and not weaken it!

Thus, I urge you to reconsider the proposal and work towards improving our town since I am sure you also want to be proud of it! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

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