



P.O. Box 864  
Port Washington  
New York 11050  
T. 516.767.9151  
residentsforward.org  
info@pwresidents.org

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Curt Trinko

Co-Presidents  
Dawn Serignese  
Melissa Vissicchio

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September 7, 2021

Town of North Hempstead  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
210 Plandome Road  
Manhasset, NY 11030

Dear Chairman Mammina and Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

Residents Forward's vision includes making Port Washington a more walkable town. Our passion for making Port Washington pedestrian friendly is evident from our efforts not only to calm traffic, but also to encourage and enhance the walking experience by lining our town's streets with planters, murals, and gardens. Our commitment to that goal is demonstrated by our participation in the revitalization of Main Street and support of pedestrian friendly events like Clean Green Main Street, Port Outdoors, and Port Holiday Magic.

The Port Washington community shares our vision. We recently conducted a survey and learned that what our residents want most is safe shopping and strolling. Our newest initiative, Let's Walk PW, reflects this priority by creating less car dependency and improving walkability. It reflects as well our belief that good walking leads to good business.

The proposed use of the former Capital One Bank site at the corner of Port Washington Boulevard and Main Street as a heavily trafficked 7-Eleven is inconsistent with our community's priority and our organization's goal. More important, it raises a serious safety issue for our residents, particularly our Weber and Schreiber students who already must – or now will be tempted to – cross our busiest intersection. The proposed 7-Eleven at that location is a step backwards not forward. The Directors at Residents Forward have reviewed 7-Eleven's application and here are some of our concerns:

- The 7-Eleven proposal includes an entrance on Port Washington Boulevard, just south of the intersection with Main Street, by converting the current driveway from "exit only" to "entry/exit". This drastic change in traffic patterns would allow southbound vehicles to make right turns from PW Boulevard into the 7-Eleven parking area; we already experience major backups in this area during morning and afternoon rush hour. By contrast, the existing merchant parking lot on Ohio Drive was designed specifically to prohibit an entryway from Port Washington Boulevard. This change from egress only in both ingress and egress would make this block un-walkable.
- The frequency of cars going in and out will greatly increase if the location changes to a retail grocery store. The applicant's own engineering firm projects 656% more trips during the morning (210 versus 32) and 239% more trips in the afternoon (165 versus 69) during the peak time than when it was a bank. Such an increase in car traffic runs counter to traffic calming and will dramatically increase the risk to pedestrians of being hit by a car, especially our students.
- This high-traffic corner already requires two full time crossing guards. Again, with this substantial increase in vehicles we are concerned about the safety of pedestrians, particularly students at this already over-burdened intersection. We are aware of a recent incident where a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle at this intersection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Curt Trinko, Chairman      Dawn Serignese, Co-President      Melissa Vissicchio, Co-President