

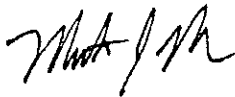
Communication "B" February 16, 2010, Calistoga City Council Regular Meeting
Item # 6: Consideration of an appeal by Yasmin Ali regarding the former Shell gas station

February 16, 2010

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting as a member of the public, but I would like to express my support in Ms. Ali's appeal to the store hours that were imposed by the Planning Commission in December. I was in attendance during the meeting but had yet to take my position on the Planning Commission. I know there had been discussion during the sub-committee talks with the Ali's regarding their store hours but during the meeting it seemed like the hours were thrown at them at the very end without much discussion. I have several reasons for my support of the 24 hour gas station/ mini-mart. First, as a member of the Ag community, I frequent the store many times during frost season (March-May) in the very early morning hours for coffee. I am not alone. There are many farmers who do the same. I know there are some concerned neighbors, but the store should not be held responsible for disrespectful customers who park down the street. If there are problems, then the local law enforcement should be called to remedy the situation. Alternatively, a no parking strip can be placed in front of the neighboring properties located on Hwy 29, or signs at the front of the store door reminding patrons to be respectful of the neighbors and also that parking is prohibited in front of neighboring properties and violators are subject to be being towed. My second objection is from a business perspective. By limiting the hours of the Ali's, in essence, it allows the 76 station across the street from increasing their hours to 24 hours, thereby putting the Ali's at a disadvantage. We should be supporting our local businesses instead of restricting their rights further. It seems like the Ali's worked really hard, along with the Planning Commissioners, in producing a very attractive corner to the entrance of our City. If the Ali's had not changed their gasoline to Chevron, we would be looking at the same corner we are today, which in my opinion, is not what the City would like to have as their doormat to the City. In conclusion, I would like to give my support to the Ali's appeal to allow them to continue to do business during the hours that they currently operate under. I appreciate your time and applaud the Commission and the Ali's on a very good project.

Sincerely,



Matthew Moye
1718 Mora Ave

CITY OF CALISTOGA
City Clerk

FEB 16 2010

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