

## Notice to the Chatham County Planning Board and Commissioners

Regarding the Public Hearing on the Proposed 16-1593 request by Diana Hauser and Alisa Woodruff dba Off Leash K9 Training for a conditional use permit on R-1 Residentially zoned property

My name is Glenda Gilbert and I own the property at 979 Hortons Pond Road.

We've all experienced it: Dog barking is unhealthy and a nuisance. According to an internet resource using statistics from OSHA and the World Health Organization, "dog barking can cause psychological and physical harm." The application highlights two noise decible levels: "a" barking dog at "75" and street noise at "70." I don't feel we have a lot of street noise since it is a road in the country, not a busy city street. Nonetheless, it really doesn't matter when you compare it to a quiet room, which is only 20 dbs. But, per the source, "The difference from "ambient noise in a quiet room (20 db) to the noise of a large dog bark (100 db) is 80 db", not a lot of difference than the ONE barking dog. However, it says "the live sound of the bark is actually over 10,000 times stronger!" And that's why we are startled when reading a book and a loud noise abruptly scares us!

Source confirms, "Dog barking is even more annoying than another source at the same db level. You cannot completely measure nuisance from dogs in decibels because it does not reflect the reality and intensity of the real problem." Source says "Barking generates a physiological reaction in our body because we have been conditioned for thousands of years to relate the sound of some animals as dangerous (lions)." "This is proven in scientific research," according to this source.

Locating a commercial business in the middle of residences is not good. Call it home business, but I feel commercial is written all over it according to the franchise website: (nationwide, franchised, retail sales, clients coming and going, has an assigned franchise territory determined by the franchise owners to protect each other, and franchisee pays a monthly license fees or % of gross sales to the franchise owner, marketing is provided nationwide.)

Sound barriers or no, sound travels. With no limitation on the number of customers or dogs—50 now, 100 next year...what are the means to guage the amount of unhealthy noise we will be subjected to? Is it fair to subject us to this health risk by changing our residential environment to a business environment that brings customers onto the property? This is not a small in-home business that only affects the owners.

The Chatham County Noise Ordinance defines that "noise that is perceived by a person...as interrupting the normal peace and calm of daily life. We believe this facility will do just that. We should not have to give up our peaceful outdoor living space. Sound panels will not allay the real problem of noise pollution to all neighboring residences. Even the applicant agrees with that since at the community meeting when asked why she was placing the commercial activity in one corner she said because she didn't want to hear the dogs either.

Events, competitions. There are no limits—there is no way to address the volume of dogs or barking noise there will be in the future. This initial plan is all you will see. Hours of operation Monday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., but the Noise Ordinance permits, with permit, up to 11:00 p.m. Sundays are a day of rest for our family, a buisness operating from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday is not in the general welfare of my family.

What is our recourse after this facility is approved? Complaints to the proper authorities? I feel it is easier to not permit the undesired use than to permit it with so many concerns going in. The petitions

to be presented indicate this type of business is not desired in this location. I feel the proposed use is not essential, nor desirable for the public health or welfare of the people. In fact, detrimental to our health, safety, peace, comfort and general welfare.

Thank you for your time.

Sources:

<http://www.anilak.com/> and their sources World Health Organization Data and Statistics and OSHA

<http://www.offleashk9training.com/licensing.html>

Chatham County Noise Ordinance, adopted October 2015