



Monique B. Boulet
Mayor-President / Maire-Président

June 28, 2024

Lafayette City Council
By and Through Mrs. Veronica L. Arceneaux
Lafayette Clerk of the Council

RE: Disposition of Ordinance No. CO-066-2024
Veto Message of Mayor-President Monique B. Boulet

Dear Council Members:

On June 18, 2024, the Lafayette City Council voted 3-2 to adopt City Ordinance No. CO-066-2024, which granted a Conditional Use Permit (“CUP”), with conditions, to authorize a Convenience store with gasoline sales on the property located at 1803 W. University Avenue in the City of Lafayette. The Lafayette City Council’s approval of this ordinance came despite the recommendations to deny this CUP by both the Lafayette Zoning Commission as well as the professional recommendations of the Community Development & Planning Department.

As a general note, the ability to build and operate a Convenience store with gasoline sales on this property is only allowed under the existing Lafayette zoning rules and regulations when special permission is granted through the approval of a CUP. The decision to grant this special permission requires a case-by-case analysis to ensure that the proposed use is consistent with the Lafayette Development Code and the Comprehensive Plan.

I was in attendance of the Lafayette City Council meeting at which this CUP was considered, listened to the Council’s discussions, the concerns of the neighboring property owners and other concerned citizens, and have thoroughly reviewed the documents and information presented to the Lafayette City Council. In addition, since the council decision, I have visited with both the property owner and a representative of the neighborhood.

It is my understanding of the plans, the development will include a restaurant and a high-end coffee brand both of which will bring character and interesting options to the neighborhood. As well, it is my understanding that the greatest concern of the neighborhood is the proposed fuel pumps and gasoline sales resulting in negative impacts on the established character of the surrounding neighborhood and quality of life.

Considering all of this information, it is readily apparent that granting a CUP to authorize a Convenience store with gasoline sales on the property contradicts the recommendations of the Lafayette Zoning Commission. My greatest concern is not with the property owner or the development itself but with the allowance for gasoline sales on the property. The proposed development with gasoline sales is not compatible with the established character of the surrounding neighborhood. Otherwise, I do want to encourage and support the development of this proposed business less the option to sell fuel.

As a result, pursuant to Section 2-13(B) of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government Home Rule Charter, I have elected to veto City Ordinance No. CO-066-2024.

Sincerely,



Monique B. Boulet
Mayor-President