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Subject: Please reject DRI-645-M5

Dear Martha's Vineyard Commissioners:

As the homeowners of 12 Hiawatha Avenue, which is residentially zoned and directly abuts (2-3 feet from) the Barn Bowl and Bistro, we are again writing to oppose yet additional changes to that commercial establishment.

We are adding our voices to our neighbors in asking that you reject the bowling alley's proposal to add a takeout window and a light tower.

During the summer, the Barn Bowl and Bistro is already overextended in terms of the activity it brings to the neighborhood. The Barn Bowl and Bistro cannot handle traffic and parking needs. Vehicles driven by patrons and employees cannot fit into its parking lot so those vehicles spill out onto the surrounding streets and neighborhood.

Adding a takeout window will only increase the chaos.

Despite the Barn Bowl and Bistro not being located directly on Hiawatha Avenue and initial efforts by this body to mitigate its impact on us, the problems the Barn Bowl and Bistro has caused on Uncas Avenue have spilled over onto Hiawatha. We already bear the brunt of early morning trash trucks rumbling down the street, and the crashing of discarded beer and liquor bottles into the Barn Bowl and Bistro trash cans late at night.

We also experience Barn Bowl and Bistro customers clogging our street with their vehicles ... smoking, drinking, littering and loitering in front of our homes, discarding cigarette stubs and trash on Hiawatha Avenue and Hiawatha Park without a thought. We actually have to be careful not to run over empty "nip" bottles strewn all over our street in case they happen to be glass containers.

Barn Bowl and Bistro employees also park in front of our homes while they are working, and sit outside their cars smoking cigarettes and talking and laughing before and after their shifts.

Additionally, in the last year, pounding music emanating from the bowling alley has increased from hearing no music at all in our back yard during the summer of

2018 to being so loud during the summer of 2019 that we can identify which song is playing if we are standing in our kitchen and the windows are open. The music is particularly loud during what the owners call “special events”. Can they not have “special events” without further disrupting the neighborhood?

(This noise is in addition to the constant “thunder-type” noise emanating in our back yard from bowling balls rolling and crashing into bowling pins – but that is an old story.)

With the takeout window, those problems will only intensify. We are very worried about increased loitering, parking and traffic.

The level of traffic on Hiawatha Avenue, a narrow road to begin with, has increased substantially since the Barn Bowl and Bistro opened. Drivers now often speed by our home - their eyes looking straight ahead with no thought that children (our grandchildren just turned 3 and 4 years old) might be playing in our yards just feet away.

Parking on summer weekends has been extremely difficult. Please see the attached photos taken about 5:00 p.m. on August 23, 2019 – a Friday night. This was a week **after** the busiest two-week period of fireworks and Illumination.

As if the Barn Bowl and Bistro’s inability to contain noise on its property is not enough, we are now faced with the prospect of a light tower just feet away -- the light from which further threatens to spill over onto our property.

Since the Barn Bowl and Bistro has opened, its owners have proceeded in a bait-and-switch manner to seek new ways to expand their business and bring further disruption to our neighborhood.

It is as if the Barn Bowl and Bistro owners throw as many expansion projects as they can at the Martha’s Vineyard boards and commissions so they can see what will stick.

We believe the developers’ eventual goal is to have a busy, loud nightclub open until 1:00 a.m.

We are also suspect of the developers’ habit of proposing these changes during the dead of winter when they know many neighbors are off island.

As Martha's Vineyard homeowners, we have a vested interest in preserving the peace and tranquility of our neighborhood and the island.

We are asking for your protection from a business entity that continues to encroach on the residential portions of the Copeland/Cottage City District – an historic, charming and special place on Martha's Vineyard.

We have been vacationing on Martha's Vineyard for over 30 years. We have been paying taxes on our small home, which we saved and scraped to finally own, since 2009.

We have been loyal ambassadors of both Oak Bluffs and Martha's Vineyard to everyone we know since the first day we stepped on this beautiful island.

In our first dealings with the Martha's Vineyard Commission, we were told that the Commission is "the abutter's best friend." Please be a friend to us now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Byron and Kathleen Barnett
12 Hiawatha Avenue
Oak Bluffs, MA





