

# Harbor View Hotel Hearing: 1/7/21

Josh McCall <josh.mccall@comcast.net>

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To: Lucy Morrison <morrison@mvcommission.org>; Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>;

Dear MVC:

I am a 21 year homeowner of 47 Morse Street in Edgartown, member of the Vineyard Trust Board, supporter of Sheriff's Meadow, The MV Hospital, MV Youth, and various other Island programs and organizations. I first came to the Vineyard in 1972 as a guest of a childhood schoolmate whose family owned, and still does, a home on Fuller Street around the corner from our Morse Street home. Fast forward 48 years and while many of the homes in our area of town have been carefully renovated and updated, the character and charm of what was so special to me about this neighborhood when I first toured it on a bicycle as a 12 year old, remains fully in tact.

However, the Harbor View (HVH) ownership is threatening the neighborhood. The outdoor bar and restaurant is all lit up, in the peak of the summer months it is loud, lit up at night and disturbing the surrounding neighbors; the restaurant is stepping beyond established permits to serve food and beverages on the porch and front lawn; the owner has purchased 119 North Water Street and is using it as an adjunct to the main hotel; and now a plan has been put forth to build a full service spa that is over 5X the size of what was last publicly approved in 2008.

As your Commission reviews the HVH requests, I would urge you to:

1. Dramatically reduce the size of the Spa and restrict it to Hotel guests only.
2. Reduce the size of the bar and move it back into the pool area where it is permitted; eliminate the outdoor restaurant and associated lights and fire-pits.
3. Eliminate and/or contain any other outdoor activities which negatively affect the character of our quiet residential neighborhood.

It would be my hope that some 50 years from now, a young boy visiting the Vineyard can say: "It's still as I remember it" and that "Commercial development and expansion were clearly controlled in the interest of the historic neighborhoods maintaining their charm, character, peace and quiet."

Thank you for your service to our island and for listening.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Best regards,

Josh McCall

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