

To the Mayor and City Council, Geneva, New York:

We, the undersigned residents of State Street and Clinton Street continue to voice our objection to the Chicken Cooperative that is being built at 50 State Street. We are the faces, the homeowners, the property tax payers and the voters in the Fifth Ward that are directly affected by the project. While we do not believe that the Planning Board appropriately applied the Zoning Code, our arguments go beyond the written law. There was a time when common decency, common sense, and respect were the unwritten rule. Those days appear to be gone.

This project has no intrinsic value to our neighborhood nor to the City of Geneva. This is not 1814 or 1914, but 2014. Farm animals do not belong in an urban setting. While the proponents will tell you that the value of the program is to bring the community together, the proponents do not live in our neighborhood. We are legitimately and seriously concerned with the impact on our property values and our environment. We are not against chickens nor are we against community. We are not ignorant. We bring our backgrounds, our experiences, and our life lessons with us. We have searched our hearts and our minds and we can not support this project.

The 'experts' will tell you that if done properly, this will not pose a problem for our neighborhood. It is admirable that Mr. Henderson and the other families that will be running the cooperative say they will be responsible. We can only hope that they will work diligently to properly dispose of waste and keep the rodents at bay. Yet, we have our doubts that absentee landlords will always be available, day or night, to address any problems that arise. Regardless, our objection also hinges on the aesthetics of this project. There will be a seven foot wire fence on a good portion of the property and chickens forging, roaming and defecating during the daytime hours. This is not something we want to see day in and day out.

This project took us by surprise. We were not formally surveyed as to our opinion. We were invited to a 'barbeque' held on Saturday, July 19 by flyer only a few days earlier. Suffice it to say, we were not prepared to make a formal presentation at the Planning Board meeting on Monday, July 21.

We do not believe that the Planning Board considered and/or properly applied all of the Zoning Codes. First, there are two sections of code that specifically address landscaping, fencing and buffers when an industrial site is adjacent to a residential district. Those sections appear to have been ignored. Second, it defies logic that the Planning Board's liberal interpretation that the 200' setback from the nearest residences does not apply to the 'range' area where the chickens will also be kept 12 hours of the day. Third, the Site Plan application provides the following instruction to applicants: "where fences are to be used ... chain link or similar metal fences ... will generally be deemed inappropriate". Yet the Planning Board chose to ignore their own instruction and allow seven foot wire fencing. We argue that if the Code had been properly applied, this project never would have met the standard that this City requires.

We do not believe that a majority of citizens in the City of Geneva would welcome this type of project in their neighborhood. If this project was proposed for South Main Street or Maxwell Avenue or Washington Street, the outrage would be enormous. In fact, this City Council has rejected previous attempts in 2011 and 2012, citing their own concerns based on their own experiences and research. Unfortunately, for us, there is an industrial site on State Street that is flanked and viewable by residences on three sides. We applaud that Mr. Henderson wanted to clean up this site, however, we now have a less desirable addition to our neighborhood. This is, for all intensive purposes, a residential area.

City Council has failed us. Our own councilman has been inattentive to his constituents. We hereby respectfully request that the City Council right this wrong and take whatever action necessary to quash this blight from our neighborhood.

Dated: August 6, 2014



ECUS W. Bozzolo 607-222-7098

30 STATE ST. GENEVA

Mary Lou Annuli

160 Exchange St 315-789-3415
cor state + Exchange

Katrina L. Valeri (Katrina Valerio)
31 State St. Geneva

Rep. CL Larry C Cook
35 STATE ST Geneva

Marie Bruno

35 Clinton St. Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Mary Crisanti

11 State Street, Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Fred Ray Jr

26 State St, Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Kandy Ray 26 State St Geneva

Shannon Inbault 22 State St Geneva

D. Dean

22 state st Geneva

Helen Costa 180 Exchange Geneva - N.Y.