

**Kim Dawson**

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**From:** Valerie Baker <vbaker2002@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 3:48 PM  
**To:** BOS-Clerk of the Board  
**Subject:** Open Comment

Hello,

I have the following comment for the open forum section of the February 7, 2023 BOS meeting.

My name is Valerie Baker and I am a resident of the town of El Dorado with a law practice in Cameron Park. I am also a newly elected trustee of the Mother Lode Union School District. There is a proposed development for a convenience store that will sell tobacco, vape products, and alcohol within only a few hundred feet of Herbert Green Middle School, which is the largest and most troubled school in our district.

This county has no "1,000 foot rule" like so many other counties, even those in the Bay Area, have. Those counties have recognized that it is inappropriate for certain establishments to exist within 1,000 feet of a school. Since our county has no such rule, yes, the developers can legally put their AM/PM convenience store within a few hundred feet of our middle school. It is important to have principles here and remember that just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Myself, district staff, teachers, and parents have all asked that the developers put something more appropriate on that lot directly across the street from the middle school, but the response from the developers was that there is no law to stop them from doing it. Again, just because you can, doesn't mean you should.

Convenience stores bring crime. It is a fact. Especially those with easy freeway access such as this one to Hwy 50. Due to the close proximity to the school, every time the sheriff is called to the

convenience store, the principal of Herbert Green Middle School will be forced to lock down 400 kids. Every. Single. Time. How is this going to help get those kids back on track after the disasterous end of 2020, and 2021/2022 school years? We are trying to create normalcy for these kids and this convenience store will only cause further disruption. Again, just because you can, doesn't mean you should.

The developers are wrong in making this decision to put an AM/PM across the street from the middle school and they know it. This is a highly travelled and dangerous intersection with frequent car accidents. Indeed, not long ago, a pedestrian was hit by a car and killed near this intersection. This is the wrong choice of what to put on that piece of land.

I am asking that the Board members take specific notice of this matter, and when it comes to them for a vote, do the right thing and vote "no."

Again, just because this county has failed to enact a 1,000 foot rule, doesn't make it okay to put this type of business across the street from a middle school.

Thank you for your time.

Valerie A. Baker

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