



**STATE OF INDIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

CAREY HAMILTON  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR  
200 WEST WASHINGTON ST.  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

COMMITTEES:  
ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION  
UTILITIES, ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
STATUTORY COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

March 15, 2024

Department of Metropolitan Development  
Division of Current Planning  
Matt Pleasant, Administrator  
200 East Washington Street, Suite 1800  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Metropolitan Development Commission Members,

I write today in opposition to the March 5, 2024 decision by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Division I over Petition No. 2024-UV3-022, which concerns a property at 8345 Bash Street. This location is within House District 87, the legislative district which I represent, and has brought about significant concern from my constituents.

First, with the new Nickel Plate Trail opening soon across the street from the property in question, we must consider appropriate uses proximate to this major public infrastructure project. Taxpayers are funding this quality-of-life investment that promises a range of community benefits, including the sort of economic development that is unique along trails and that bolsters quality of life and property values. A used car lot is not among such uses.

Second, I believe this development runs counter to the goals established within the Castleton Strategic Redevelopment Plan. The Plan, which was commissioned, prepared, and released by the Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) with significant community input, was designed to bring new life to the Castleton area. To ensure the Plan delivers on the promise of new and strategic uses and significantly increased quality of life for residents, it is essential to consider the types of businesses seeking to locate within the Plan area. I do not believe that a used car lot would be the best use of the land located at 8345 Bash Street, nor do my constituents or the DMD staff which originally recommended denying the petition. This is not to say that used car lots don't have a place in our city, but rather that an exception to the zoning ordinance for Castleton should not be made in this instance.

I am proud to stand with Binford Redevelopment and Growth (BRAG), the Greater Allisonville Community Council (GACC), and the various other entities and individuals within the area opposed to the establishment of a used car lot at 8345 Bash Street. I urge you to consider the adverse impact on the community this decision will have and favorably view the petitions filed appealing the BZA's decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If there are any questions, please reach out to my office at [h87@iga.in.gov](mailto:h87@iga.in.gov) or 317-233-5248.

Sincerely,

Carey Hamilton  
State Representative  
District 87