

June 26, 2024

RE: Comp 24-0006 & PUD 24-0004 (Goodrich Estates)

Dear Planning and Zoning Advisory Board,

My name is Gavin Cross Middleton and I live at 2266 Knowles Road. I am 24 years old and have lived at this address my whole life. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice my concerns on the rezoning plan that is directly affecting me and my family.

I have built my life around Agriculture. I am a graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in Agriculture Education and Communication. I am a current board member of the Clay County Farm Bureau, the Chair of Young Farmers and Ranchers and a past President of Junior Cattlemens in Clay County. I routinely volunteer to educate at local elementary schools through presentations and hands on experience in Bees and farming. I spend a lot of time handling Bee rehoming in the county. I've worked with local girl scouts, here on our family's farm to give them first hand interaction with bees and animals to earn their badges. All of my life choices have been based on Agriculture – with my home (2266 Knowles Road) being the home base for all of it.

I harvested food for the community all year round through gardening, chickens, cattle, honey, etc. I donate some of that food to the local food pantry. The proposed rezoning for Comp 24-0006 & PUD 24-0004 would affect me in my efforts to continue this path forward. I am deeply concerned about how the PUD would affect the drainage, soil, runoff, and my ability to continue the way of life I have chosen. A recent example of this is with the sudden loss of my bee hives. With the assistance of the University of Florida, we were told that pesticides from the golf course & existing surrounding subdivisions (on average, bees fly within a 5-mile radius of their hive) were a major contributor to the loss of our bee hives. The proposed rezoning is not at all compatible with the 'surrounding' areas. Our way of life would be significantly impacted by the development of the 214 homes being proposed.

Based on the already congested traffic in the area and the folks speeding down Knowles Road, it will get significantly worse. I have witnessed multiple accidents.

I ask that you consider our voices and our needs when evaluating this rezoning application. The application for rezoning, should be denied for our way of life to continue. When will our voices be heard and considered?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Gavin Cross Middleton