

Dear Planning and Zoning Commission,

My name is Chip Middleton. I reside at 2266 Knowles Road, Green Cove Springs. I am a lifelong resident of Clay County. My grandparents owned the Green Cove Springs Coca Cola Bottling Company and I was raised on a working chicken farm off of Ivey Road. Agriculture has always been a part of my life.

When my wife and I married 29 years ago, I moved to this property as it was her inheritance. In those 29 years, we have built a home and a lifestyle that revolves around agriculture. We raise cattle, hogs, chickens, grow produce, harvest sugar cane and honey. We chose this lifestyle and we are very happy with it.

To read in this proposal that the developer will be “improving the character of the surrounding area by setting the bar for quality development” and helping to “improve the quality of life of those in the immediate area” is absolutely insulting. Who are they to determine how the bar for my “quality of life” should be set? Especially since the only thing that the surrounding area is compared to is Magnolia West. My home and our lifestyle are nothing like Magnolia West. This land is my children’s legacy. The goal has always been for them to build here, raise families here, and continue to work the property.

With this proposed development comes many concerns for us:

Flooding is a huge concern. After having lived here for almost 30 years and seeing the natural flow of water, I do not see a way for flooding not to occur on our property at some point (even with the drainage in the proposed community). Whether that’s after a hurricane or a tropical storm. When that happens, our pastures, animals and spring fed pond will be the path of least resistance. Who will be responsible for that? The developer? The County?

The wildlife that currently seeks refuge on our property will literally disappear. They use our land as a safe place to bed down, create nests, and have a water source. If 214 homes are built, the deer, fox, turkeys, etc. will no longer be able to seek that refuge. They will not travel down the streets or sidewalks of the residential neighborhood to get here.

Knowles Road has become a thorough fare. The posted speed limit is never recognized. The joke is that it is Clay County’s version of the Autobahn. Traffic is extremely heavy before and after Clay High School begins and ends. If there is an accident, we become the detour route. During the fair, we can’t even exit our driveways. We watch vehicles turn from CR 315 onto Knowles Road to Murrhee Road and out to SR 16 to avoid sitting in backed up traffic on CR 315. This development is only going to bring more individuals that will be looking for the shortest route possible. CR 315/315A cannot sustain it. With no addition of stop lights or road widening to accommodate the congestion, the number of accidents will continue to rise.

Please take the time to consider my opposition. **It is not fair or equitable to destroy one existing community and way of life to add a new one.** There is no infrastructure to support this proposed

development. We are asking that you please deny the rezoning application and preserve the life and land that we have all worked to build.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Chip D. Middleton