

STREET SCAPE DESIGN

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To: Oak Bluffs Planning Board <planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov>

To the Oak Bluffs Planning Board,

This has been a difficult process for me as a business owner with properties at the bottom of Circuit Ave (MV Chowder Co), directly in the middle of Circuit Ave (Sharky's) and near the end of Circuit Ave (Vineyard Vines building).

After considering all the sensitive parking compromises and sidewalk scenarios, I am writing today to lend my support to the compromised plan as it has been most recently presented.

I never want to remove parking from a downtown and I have concerns about parallel parking on a hill, but I do not see how we can continue to welcome foot bound visitors to our downtown with the existing sidewalks anymore. At the end of the day Oak Bluffs is a walking town, with many boats in close proximity, Inns and Hotels surrounding us and a plethora of stores, restaurants and experiences that entertain a vast majority of visitors for many hours at a time.

Oak Bluffs is a destination location that attracts, holds and entertains families, visitors, day trippers and locals for hours. I am in support of providing them with a more enhanced walking experience downtown that allows wheel chairs, strollers and walkers to co-exist in places where it does not and can not happen today.

This was a tremendously difficult decision for me not because of the affect on my businesses, which I believe will be minimal, but because I know there are friends and neighbors of mine that oppose these changes because of the specific impact they feel it will have.

Ultimately, I decided to go with the cumulative net gain to the entirety of town and not just the individual affect on certain locations. I think that for Oak Bluffs to adapt to the increased popularity it enjoys, and to be safe and accessible for generations to come, that this plan is necessary, at this time,

I truly hope in the end that we learn these changes benefit every business in town. I have to support the entirety of OB, and for this reason I am sharing my support of this project.

Respectfully,

JB Blau

Sharky's, MV Chowder Co,, Loft and Owner of Vineyard Vines location