

Cheryl Black
2657 Howell RD,
Lake Park, Ga. 31636

To the Commissioners of Lowndes County, Georgia,

This letter is concerning the rezoning of a parcel of land located at 2193 Howell Rd. from Estate Agricultural to Planned Development in order to build housing for drug addicts. There will be no licensed counselors and the addicts will be allowed to come and go wherever they please even in our back yards. There is no guarantee that we will not have any problems with at least some of the residents, They will not all be clean, some are going to revert back to their drug ways and will need money from somewhere.

I would like to state my objections and concerns in this matter. I totally object to these housing units, around fifty-three units, within ten years, being built in a family community area, I have lived on Howell Rd. forty-eight years, I am a widow, seventy two years old and live alone. My husband and I built a house on Howell Road on family land in the year 1974. This land has been in the family for over a hundred years. It has always been a residential area and should stay a residential area. I think that as a land owner and resident for so may year I should not have to feel unsafe.

I should not have to worry if someone with drug issues will cause problems in our neighborhood. I fear having these residents nearby can lead to more and more issues like theft, robbery, hurting someone or killing someone. I am sure you are all aware of what happens in neighborhoods with crime issues. Once it gets, started it will not stop. It will also decrease the value of our homes, as no one will want to live in this area with drug housing right down the road from them. We have to be concerned with our children and grandchildren being hurt or worse. Look at the statistics for crime. Also, elderly people live out this way and are often the ones that crimes are committed against because they are easy targets and cannot defend themselves.

I worked at Valdosta State Prison for almost twenty years and I am fully aware of what can happen, and I am aware of the behavior of drug addicts. There is always someone that gives into their addiction. They will do anything to get the drugs they need.

I have already encountered a crime done by a drug addict who broke into and robbed my home a number of years ago so I do know what I am talking about. I should not have to worry about this now at my age. I don't understand how this rezoning is even possible and why we are having to fight for our homes and safety.

Just as you do we have a right to live without fear for ourselves, our children, grandchildren and all our family. We also have the right not to lose the value we have in our homes that we have worked so hard to earn. I feel as long term residents of the area our feelings and concerns should outweigh that of a development company and should be the deciding factor for not approving this rezoning petition.