

Dear CouncilMan Koo

Justice, Democracy and the voice of the people need to be held up. My name is Albert Hasan and my family is a part owner in Gold City Supermarket. I attended the City Council hearing on June 20th, 2019 but did not share a testimony due to the unique relationship of my family and Kimco. My opinions may come off biased but I will only speak to what I believe is true. I did not realize how difficult the job of a city council man is until I attended the city council hearing and I commend you for your service. There are a lot of opinions and stories you have to navigate through. You must decide whether they hold truth or they were paid for. I'm writing this letter not to make new points about the rezoning but to give a different perspective and help find the truth on the testimonies given.

There are four things I want to bring up; Job Opportunity, Walk in Supermarkets, Crossing Guards and Kimco as a company. I will be brief and fair as I will accommodate to the two minutes everyone else was given. There were two testimonies on June 20th from young adults still in the middle of the schooling process. One of them, just out of High School, said he supported the rezoning because it would allow Job opportunities. This struck me as a little odd because after having just graduated high school, I can make the assumption that he would want to further his education in college and would only be looking for a part time job. If the student wanted a part time job that did not require a degree, he could look at trade work or retail work. Kimco did not lay out a plan of how they would replace all the existing jobs in the complex. The next student said he would like a walk in supermarket where he did not have to navigate through a parking lot. That claim also has a loose foundation because Flushing is flooded with walk in supermarkets. Towards the end of the hearing, someone came with the solution that Crossing Guards would be a good fix for the traffic issue that would be caused, comparing it to Sky View. That is very misleading, because the two roads do not compare. Sky View has two points of entry and exit, and also there are 3 lanes that drivers can navigate in between. With all this said, there is still congestion in and out of Sky View. Kimco said they plan to keep the underground parking free, This will invite the people who live in the homes to tell their friends and families to come over, ultimately creating more congestion along with the shoppers who will be fighting to get in and out. My final point is that Kimco as a company has said they care about servicing the community, but I feel they only care about servicing their shareholders. If you google the company name, their NY office will show up and if you click it, under you will find a 2.6 out of 5 rating. Three 1 Star reviews spanning the course of 3 years and 2 five star reviews from two people I believe to be hired by Kimco. I did research on both of the two five star reviewers and stumbled upon their linkedin page. They both work for the same company. This tells me that they only really care about their bottom line and not how their actions will affect the community. Given everything stated, I do agree the Supermarket should be updated and am empathetic to the people in the current housing crisis, but creating a building in a community where schools are at capacity and you cant get anywhere due to traffic does not sound like a solution to me.

Please Consider this testimony and the validity of each testimony referenced above. Kimco does not hold the interest of the community. The change in zoning is for the sole purpose to create even further high density and commercial area for large corporations. This decision and this zoning change this would have an effect on Flushing for years to come. It would show large corporations that with enough money and influence they can have their way and ruin the community and its way of life. Thank you for your time councilman. I wish you the best of luck making your decision.

Best,
Albert Hasan