

## Miranda Bergmeier

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**From:** Stephanie Briggs <stephaniebinvt@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 10:38 PM  
**To:** Miranda Bergmeier  
**Cc:** Michael Lyons  
**Subject:** Public Safety Building -Neighborhood concerns

April 11, 2017

Dear Norwich Selectboard members,

As neighbors of the current police station and proposed Public Safety building, we are writing to you with our concerns about some of the changes in the neighborhood this new construction will bring. Eventually we will all adjust to a larger footprint this project brings, and are sure those on the police force and the volunteers who staff the fire department will greatly appreciate the new space.

Our main concerns are that of the effects of 1) new septic 2) the lighting 3) the parking expansion proposal.

We invite you to walk through the property during the day and night if you have not yet been here, and get a feel for what the neighborhood is like.

The current lighting at the police station, has been very adequate, and is similar to the light of another home in the neighborhood. Suddenly having industrial complex lighting would seem to be a contradiction to the small town feel we all seek and have chosen by living here in Norwich. A clear review of the lighting as proposed seems a fair request. And at the very minimum we would expect the lighting could be a) on timers and b) on motion detectors. Thus saving both energy, money, and the feel of our neighborhood

As those of us on Carpenter street are aware, there have been sewage and drainage problems, particularly on the north end of the street. With the addition of a new septic not far from the property line bordering our home and our septic system, we want assurance that our septic will continue to function smoothly and our basement remain dry, as it all has for the past 15 yrs.

Our other primary concern is the proposal as written, currently includes a potential expansion of paved parking. As this parking lot is not approved in the budget, we believe it should not be a part of the plans as written. "Just in case you decide later" does not seem a fair reason to "slip it in" the plans. It is costly, unnecessary and not a part of the current plan. If things change and the population of our town expands and more parking really is needed, then propose it, not now when it is not in the plan and no money allotted for it. For those who remember this piece of land was a community garden for the senior center, but the town then stopped mowing it. It was overgrown, and only recently has mowing been restarted as plans to expand have been made. Perhaps consider returning that plot of land to a community garden space. Such a project would be much more in line with what life in Norwich is about, not planning for more pavement because we might need it.

These are our main concerns, and while this new space will generate considerably more traffic in our backyard we realize some element of change is inevitable. We would like the selectboard to also consider landscaping to help offset the impact on the Carpenter Street and Senior Center neighborhood as well as those on Main Street. It would also be much less obtrusive if the color of the buildings - which are currently gray- were kept a neutral tone to help camouflage the new structure which will now occupy what was previously open space. The drawings as proposed are depicting a "yellow" exterior and we hope you would vote to change this.

Thank you for your consideration of these and others issues brought up by neighbors in and around the new proposed building.

We both hope to attend the meeting WEDS 4/12 as our work schedules will allow, and look forward to meeting you all in person.

Stephanie Briggs  
Michael Lyons  
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Enclosure/attachment  
Photos- from our yard this week, including one at night

