

August 19, 2020

Dear Secretary Garvin and Hearing Officer Vest:

The City of Wilmington submits this comment in strong opposition to the proposed construction of a crematory at 100 North Cleveland Avenue, Wilmington DE 19805.

The area in which this lot lies is densely populated, and although the specific block where the applicant seeks to build a crematory is zoned C-2, immediately adjacent to it is a large residential district zoned R-3. Only a few blocks east of where the crematory would emit directly into the atmosphere particulates consisting of incinerated human remains are numerous residents as well as the Cab Calloway School for the Arts and Charter School of Wilmington. The City cannot emphasize enough its great concern for the health and safety of those citizens who would be forced to live and study near this hazard.

And, while a C-2 zone may arguably permit a crematory as an accessory to a funeral home on the same lot, there is in fact no funeral home located on the lot at 100 North Cleveland Avenue. Rather, the applicant's funeral home is situated a block away on a different street and different parcel of land. The likely result, therefore, is that the lot's zoning will not permit the construction of a crematory. To the extent that the applicant represents that he has received an earlier permit, the City has no record of that occurrence.

As a result, the City of Wilmington opposes this application and respectfully requests that it be denied.

Sincerely yours,
Tanya Washington
Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Wilmington