

August 27, 2014,

Members of the Assembly and Mr. Gorman,

With respect to Ordinance Number 2014-29 and the proposed extension of the lease between the City of Sitka and the White Elephant Shop, Inc. ("The White E"), we would like to submit these comments for your consideration:

As residents of Sitka, we appreciate the contributions made by the White Elephant Shop to the community and various organizations throughout Sitka. We believe in the mission of the White E. but have a dilemma with regard to the following comments. In no way do we mean to imply any negativity toward them but rather simply state a problem that exists with the location of the business.

Contained within each of the lease agreements between the City and the White Elephant Shop is the statement "*The above described parcel is subject to a 20 foot easement for access purposes lying parallel with the easterly boundary of the above described tract.*"

This is our **only** problem with the White Elephant Shop. This easement is our driveway. The residents that live behind the Shop are put at odds with them because the easement is where the Shop's drop-off zone is. We, the residents behind the White E., have asked for help in mitigating the problem and have even taken our problems to them through an attorney. The true problem is the definition of "easement" and who has use of such space. To give credit where credit is due, the White E. has put effort into our concerns and, to a small degree; their "fixes" have an effect *for a while*.

Regardless of the mission of the White Elephant Shop, they are a retail store. They are the **ONLY** retail establishment along Seward Street without designated parking spaces. Under normal circumstances their customer base parks along the length of Seward Street, in all the available parking lots, in every yellow "no parking" spot and, often times, in the lane to our homes (the easement). When the Shop is not open it is very common for people to use the lane (easement) for the purpose of dropping things off or checking the contents of the trash can. **THE EASEMENT IS THE DROP-OFF POINT FOR THE SHOP.** When Seward Street was undergoing repair, we asked the City to provide curb relief on the other side of the Shop in hopes that the White E. would relocate the drop-off location. There is now curb relief but the White E is not willing to relocate this function. Perhaps this is part of the "improvements" they wish to make.

In closing, the use of this easement is not a minor inconvenience to us. It is an ongoing issue, and we feel that making a comment to you is warranted.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. We remain willing to discuss the issues and wish to maintain a positive relationship with our neighbor.

Sincerely,

Scott Harris, Laura Kronsperger 325 Seward St, Dorothy Breedlove, 319 Seward St.