

From: [Helen Raschick](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Subject: Comment on VAR 25-04
Date: Monday, March 31, 2025 8:46:30 PM

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Hello, I am writing about the application for a variance for "direct sign lighting" at the Sitka Assembly of God. The church is in a Residential neighborhood, and is across the street from my house. I am distressed to learn that they want to have a lighted sign, which seems to me to be unnecessary (no one has any problem finding the church), and a huge intrusion into the nature of a residential neighborhood. I do not want to see a lighted sign when I sit out on my porch enjoying a peaceful evening. This is not a commercial district.

As it is, this church already pushes the boundary of what is allowed for an entity who pays no property tax: they occasionally host a for-profit business (Russian dancers or storytellers) in the summertime, allowing busloads of tourists there (as many as four large buses parked there). I have looked the other way on that, but now with this variance request I must speak up, as the sign would be permanent and year round, lessening my enjoyment of my residential neighborhood.

I hope you will consider this issue carefully, and I would hope there is no intrusive lighting allowed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you all for your work on the Planning Commission.

Sincerely, Helen Raschick
204 Peterson Ave
Sitka, AK

From: [Cathy Poulson](#)
To: [Planning Department](#)
Subject: comment, Assembly of God church sign variance request
Date: Monday, March 31, 2025 10:08:46 PM

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March 31, 2025

This is a letter of a concern I hope Planning will consider as they consider the variance the Sitka Assembly of God's request for a lighted sign.

My main concern is the placement of this illuminated sign. It is to be posted on Kimsham Street, midway up a steep hill that is topped with a roundabout. This intersection demands a driver's attention—I've had some near misses both on foot and behind the wheel in this traffic circle—and a lighted sign could be dangerously distracting.

I don't live next to the church, but I do live within a block of it. I feel an illuminated sign is out of keeping with the neighborhood's character.

Catherine Poulson
1103 Edgecumbe Dr.