

**From:** [Francis Wesley Herman](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Group](#)  
**Subject:** Zoning ordinance  
**Date:** Sunday, May 05, 2019 9:48:16 PM

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Dear Members of the Planning Commission and Goleta City Council,

My name is Wes Herman and I am a retired Santa Barbara County Fire Dept. Captain. I first took up residence in old town Goleta in 1965 as a student at UCSB. I have owned several properties in the Goleta Area. I currently reside in my home on Pismo Beach Circle in the Santa Barbara Shores Tract where I have lived since 1984. I appreciate the opportunity to provide my views on the proposal to revise the zoning ordinance. I am particularly interested in the proposal to change the way we have been able to use our properties for decades here in Goleta. The, "Historical and Traditional," practice of parking our various trailers, RVs, Boat trailers, tool and utility trailers, automobile restoration project vehicles, etc. has been a very valuable enhancement to the use and enjoyment of our homes and private property here in the Goodland. Recently, several storage lots where some folks have paid a monthly stipend to store such trailers and vehicles have been zoned out of existence. Existing lots for that type of storage have raised their prices due to the pressures of supply and demand. The inconvenience of having to travel to remote locations to recover our trailers, RV's, etc. would consume valuable time and result in more road miles traveled to and from those locations. this would increase traffic on our already crowded roadways. There is a principle in law referred to as, "Past Practices and Procedures," which dictates that activities, uses, and long standing practices have a legal standing due to their continued function over time. The City is well over a decade old now. We citizens value and wish to express our appreciation to the founders, the civic officers and employees of our wonderful little city. The time, dedication, energy and intelligence you provide for the good of all of we citizens continues to preserve the intrinsic value of our homes and community here in Goleta. The long standing practice of storing our various vehicles on our own private property here in Goleta is a use we have enjoyed, uninterrupted for decades. It is a use of definite financial value that amounts to thousands of dollars over the years. Were the Planning Commission or City Council to pass an ordinance denying us this long standing use, it would be considered a, "Taking," of value, under California law, or so we have been advised. I have spoken with dozens of my fellow Goletans, and we all agree we would be forced to seek legal counsel and action if a more restrictive ordinance was proposed or enacted by the City. If there was an overriding concern involving dozens of complaints or health and safety issues which had occurred over the past several decades due to the storage of our accessory vehicles on our private properties, we might view this issue differently. In discussions with City personnel we have learned that no great uproar or flood of complaints has occurred over the period of time since the City was incorporated. We sincerely appreciate the City's efforts to codify the ordinances and guidelines which preserve the unique character of our lovely little city. We look forward to working with the Council and Commission as this process is moved forward. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and share the views of myself and hundreds of my fellow Goletans.

Sincerely

Wes Herman