

To Adams County Commissioners and Planning Commission

A Better Place Funeral Condition Use Application RCU2022-00018

Commissioners and Planning Staff:

My name is Michael Taylor of Taylor Funeral Home and Mortuary. We are one of a dwindling number of family operated funeral homes based in Denver CO. I also have a crematory which I personally operate.

I have known Jennifer Connell for over 20 Years. We often partner and refer families to each other when it is best for that family's needs and desires. Both of our Funeral Homes focus on doing the right thing for customers and therefore our relationship and trust with each other is excellent.

In the last few years, A Better Place has contracted out a number of their cremations to us. Jennifer is our primary outside customer for cremations. However, given her growth and our growth given the increase in deaths throughout the Metro area, we find it difficult to meet her and our needs as timely as families and agencies would like. We support her efforts to have onsite cremations along with her regular funeral and cremation business.

We have a slightly older model crematory unit than Jennifer is proposing with her new state of the art unit. The Commissioners and Planners should know that crematories are minor sources of air pollution with the Colorado Dept of Health. The burners of my slightly older unit and the new units are very efficient and have excellent pollution controls. In my years of operation, I have never had a public complaint regarding emissions or odor. The perception regarding crematories being smelly and emitting mercury is not reality. We have other contacts with crematories in the area and I have not heard of actual noncompliance actions for any crematory using post 2000's units . Maintenance is important and I have factory technicians do annual inspections and any repairs to be sure we operate without public complaints. When I invest in an additional unit or replacement of the current unit, I will be installing an even better crematory. The manufacturers have shown the new units produce less air pollution than the vans we transport decedents and remains in.

I support A Better Place Funeral and Cremations request. Family funeral homes support the community in a number of ways and are essential services. Please vote to support those service providers like A Better Place who do the right thing every day.

Michael Taylor

Taylor Funeral Home Denver and Aurora

