
FW: Comment on City Formula Business Ordinance

From: Katherine Parkhurst [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 10:33 AM
To: John Jay <jjay@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Comment on City Formula Business Ordinance

To The Sebastopol City Council,

Unfortunately I am unable to attend tonight's public meeting, however I wanted to voice my deep concern and vehement opposition to the idea of allowing 'formula' businesses into the heart of Sebastopol. Our town is a unique wonderfully creative and diverse community and the local businesses reflect that. When my family moved to the area almost eight years ago a large part of the draw for us was the vibrant small town atmosphere that sets Sebastopol apart from many of the cities around us as well as further afield. It is this small town charm embodied by the local small businesses that draws both residents and tourists to this area.

Letting more 'formula' businesses in would be a large leap toward homogenizing our town, making us basically an outpost of Santa Rosa. In the current economic climate of the country, as well as some recent local decisions, the small business 'mom and pops' and local chains, which are heart and soul of our community, are already struggling. Many if not most of the people who work in and own these local businesses are our neighbors and your constituents. If we allow in chain stores we will be further endangering their livelihoods.

Furthermore we do not need businesses such as Grocery Outlet downtown. We already have seven markets in Sebastopol, three within a short walk of the old Rite Aide location. To jeopardize our existing businesses and the character of Sebastopol for something that is completely unnecessary seems excessively irresponsible and reprehensible.

We should be looking for ways to support and further revitalize the unique heart of our town, not becoming just another soulless anywhere U.S.A.

Thank you for your time,
Katie Parkhurst

