

From: john godfrey <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 3:12 PM

To: City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Subject: Please do not allow Grocery Outlet to take over the former Rite Aid property

We already have seven grocery stores in this town of 7,500 people—why in the world would we allow another? Turn that Rite Aid location into low-income housing, or a vintage/artisan mall, or a Walgreens. Or perhaps turn it into a free parking lot to help out the small businesses dealing with the terrible parking situation downtown.

Grocery Outlet is a bottom-feeding mega-chain—cut from the same cloth as predatory, community-destroying outfits like Dollar Store and Dollar King. Is this the sort of business we want in Sebastopol? It's bad enough that there's a Little Caesar's right in the heart of downtown; it would be a blight on the community to allow a Grocery Outlet in too.

We need to support community-first businesses that pay employees well, provide quality customer service to tax-paying locals, and keep Sebastopol unique and charming. Grocery Outlet might be welcome in Rohnert Park or Cotati or Windsor but it definitely does not belong in a special town like Sebastopol.

And besides, look at the products they sell: mass-produced meats, ultra-processed everything, very little that is organic or local. If Sebastopol residents want to put this garbage in their bodies, they can go to the Lucky's in town or Rohnert Park or wherever and purchase unhealthy products. Don't let Grocery Outlet destroy our town.

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