

7/6/17

RE: BIG O TIRE HEARING  
JULY 18, 2017

For 12 years now, I have fought for the businesses and neighbors surrounding the Big O Tires/Big Discount Tires because of the blatant and continual violations of the Big O/Discount Tires Use Permit. Big O Tires owner, Mr Voss and his employees have had a total disregard for the other Park Street businesses and neighbors affected by their violations. Almost every condition of their Use Permit has been violated.

I started this process by speaking directly to Mr. Voss to try to resolve the problems in a civil friendly way. He put me off by saying he will take care of it. However, he didn't take care of it instead, they found different ways to hide their violations.

Big O Tires/Big Discount Tires average 65 customer cars a day! They have about 20 employees so, that adds up to 85 vehicles for one business! They average 65 customer cars a day but on a slow day they could have 40 customer cars pass through however, on a busy day they could have over 100 cars so, add in the 20 employee cars and they would have 120 cars in one day!

I have personally, witnessed more than fifty (50) cars on site at one time, two - three times a week for the past 12 years. I have collected photo's and video's of their violations. They use the Parking Meters (without putting money in the meters) to store customer vehicles and flow over into the residential areas. In addition to parking customer vehicles without putting money in the meters, the Big O/Big Discount Employee's park their personal vehicles all day in the Metered Parking! Both are violations of the use permit which states, "All vehicles associated with the business be parked on the lot." This is reprehensible because it not only violates the City law but it prohibits surrounding local business customers to equal access to find parking so they can patronize the other businesses. It affects the fair business practices and has called into question the integrity of Big O/Big Discount Tires. We, the smaller private owners have fallen victim to the unfair practices and actions of a larger corporation who, has the unlimited financial resources to advertise and draw customers into the shop. Ethical people play fairly and respect the rules and the laws. They have monopolized this area for more than twelve years that I have documented! However, the Use Permit dates back to 1979 and the conditions of the permit have never been adhere to nor enforced by the City!

I have argued and fought for the local business owners and the residents in this area before the Alameda Planning Board many times over the years. I have used my own funds and met with attorneys. I have shown the Planning Board clear evidence of the violations through photos, videos and witnesses.

May 8, 2017, the Planning Board voted NOT to renew Big O / Big Discount Tires Use Permit. Now that Mr. Voss has found a new location in Alameda, the property owned by Jay Garfinkle is appealing the denial of the Use Permit! They will be going before the City Council on July 18, 2017. If you are tired of the neglect and abuse by the Big O / Big Discount Tires, I strongly urge you to attend the meeting and voice your displeasure and opinions. If you cannot attend please, send an email to

Athomas@alamedaca.gov or send a letter to:

Community Development, City of Alameda - City Hall  
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room # 190  
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07/18/2017 6-B

external correspondence