

Hello, my name is Morris Panner and I am a father of four and live in Somerset.

We have loved raising our children here. Our closest friends are here and the ability to walk in our beautiful neighborhood and greet friends and neighbors is one of our great joys. We have been here long enough to welcome new families to the neighborhood and participate in many of the activities in our community. We have run the local PTA fundraising race and my wife managed the local swim team for six years. We love this community and its residents.

The way Thrive and the associated zoning regulation has been developed, with no consideration of integral neighborhoods, we have not had the benefit of the appropriate process and investigation which such an important initiative demands. Without appropriate investigation, we are going to see developers be able to build duplexes and quadruplexes as a matter of right. We have not had the benefit of the appropriate investigation to understand the change in the quality of our neighborhood. We do not know if this will accomplish goals or just degrade the environment and quality of life. In all of this, specifically there has been no consideration of the environmental impact, the traffic impact or the school impact. All of these are necessary for a plan that seeks to improve our County as a whole.

I was a Town Council member and watched neighbors vigorously protest development because of the flooding and deforestation it implied. This program as currently proposed will lead to more development, flooding and neighborhood challenges. We will lose the ability to control our own destiny and preserve the family-friendly quality of our neighborhood as is most appropriate for the changing nature of our County.

We recommend that Thrive and associated zoning be investigated in such a way that it fosters the development of great neighborhoods that can work for all of us.