

JUN 23 2021

MIAMI CO CLERK

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Commissioners,

Michael Ludwig, a current resident of Miami County and in the proposed area of Golden, KS

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening and to convey my utmost support for the incorporation of Golden, KS.

Our family moved out here in 2013 and instantly fell in love with the area. We wanted a safe place to raise our family, but also wanted to escape the typical trappings of city and suburban life. We found our forever home on 5 acres in a rural residential area that we have invested money into fixing up. My wife and I work from the home and our children have started school here in Spring Hill. Let's just say we are "ALL IN" and very happy being residents of North Miami County.

We only found out in April about what has been going on to the north of us. Like many folks here, we saw a lot of signs and started asking questions. What we have found out is devastating, as it threatens everything we have built here over the last 8 years.

Make no mistake, what is occurring is the collusion of a city government and a corporation to exert its will on the people. It is obvious by Edgerton's now haphazard city limit, that they are annexing land solely for the purpose of rezoning to industrial for Northpoint, in hopes of getting future tax revenues. A 10 year tax abatement, followed by reinvestment of funding back into Northpoint development, and no guarantees that companies will actually stay in the warehouses after the 10 years, make these future revenues uncertain to say the least. Northpoint is strategically buying properties under false names and false promises of economic growth. They then bulldoze the land, kill all the trees and any wildlife on it, then construct giant and unsightly warehouses that none of our residents would ever want to live next to. This development decreases everyone's property value and makes homes unsellable, even in one of the largest real estate market booms in recent years. Air, water, and noise pollution have all increased and will continue to get worse. Truck traffic has increased, damaging our roads, and making them unsafe for our children.

The worst part is we as citizens have been completely helpless to stop this. Our outcries to commissioners, legislatures, local government officials, lawyers, and anyone who will listen, have all been ignored, or we are simply told "Nothing we can do" and "It sucks to be you."

The only resolution to our problem is to incorporate. This will allow us to take back the power and make decisions for ourselves that benefit our citizens and neighbors. We will get actual representation of our interests. We will no longer be at the mercy of a town 15 miles away and a corporation from Missouri, both who care absolutely nothing about our needs and desires. Our goal is to be able to maintain our way of life as well as make decisions for ourselves. This is America's founding principle. Denying us this right is the same as denying us the American way.

We meet more than enough of the criteria for incorporation. We are an appropriate size and tax base, have natural borders for our town of the lake and the county line. We have a lot of opportunities for growth in both residential and commercial development. The difference is we will get to decide what is best for Golden, not outside interests dictating to us how we will live. For services almost everything will remain the same. No changes to sewer, electricity, EMS, fire, police and water. A minimal tax will be utilized to cover anything else that is needed including road maintenance, lawyers and other expenses. We will set up our own laws and government, of and for the people of Golden.

Most importantly it's what the majority of our residents want. We also have the full support from the surrounding cities of Spring Hill, Gardner and Fontana. Most that oppose do not live within the proposed border of Golden, or have a vested interest in selling land to Northpoint. Either way they are not concerned with the quality of life or welfare of their neighbors. A vote against incorporation, is a vote against our wishes and would not be representing us. I implore you all to please vote "Yes" to Golden.

In closing, I ask only that you put yourself in our shoes for a moment. You have moved to this beautiful area, that is zoned for farming and rural residential with no plans for any industrial expansion south of I-35. A company you have never heard of, and a town whose name is not even on your address start buying all of your neighbors land using a false name. Strategically picking properties that touch back to the town, annexing and voting to turn them into industrial properties seemingly overnight and in closed door meetings. No one asks you for your opinion or input or if this is a good thing for you or your neighbors. A giant monstrosity of a warehouse is now across the street from where your neighbors house once stood, blocking your view of the sky and the sunset. You tell your kids to stay they can only play in the driveway as trucks whiz by your home at high speeds all day and night. You have to start locking all of your doors and windows at night because the warehouse has brought so many people to the area. You try to sell your home to get away, but no one will buy it, not even Northpoint because its not enough land to put a warehouse on. Your life savings and your biggest investment have become worthless. This is what current Miami County residents are experiencing today.

This will fundamentally change our way of life and will eventually force all of the people out of this area. Instead of a beautiful, rural lakeside community, you will see nothing but giant warehouses. Instead of a steady stream of property taxes from citizens, the warehouses will live there for free.

Please vote to incorporate Golden, you are our only hope.

Thank you,

Michael Ludwig