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## Opposition to UDC Expansion Allowing Child Caring Institutions

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**From** JD Purify Jr. <jpurify@hotmail.com>

**Date** Wed 10/1/2025 5:20 AM

**To** Al Thurman <Athurman@powderspringsga.gov>

**Cc** Kelly Axt <kaxt@powderspringsga.gov>; Kelly Axt <kaxt@powderspringsga.gov>; Pam Conner <PCONNER@powderspringsga.gov>; Comm Dev <commdev@powderspringsga.gov>; Henry Lust <hlust@powderspringsga.gov>; Doris Dawkins <ddawkins@powderspringsga.gov>; Dwayne Green <dgreen@powderspringsga.gov>; Dwight McMutry <dmcmutry@powderspringsga.gov>; Patricia Wisdom <pwisdom@powderspringsga.gov>

 1 attachment (18 KB)

Child\_Caring\_Institution\_Strict\_Redline\_JP\_FinalClean.docx;

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Dear Mayor Thurman and Members of the Powder Springs City Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed UDC amendment that expands zoning to permit "Child Caring Institutions" as a business within the City of Powder Springs.

While I fully support the mission of providing care for children in state custody, I have serious concerns about this amendment and its impact on our community. Specifically:

### 1. Expanding UDC to Permit New Business Activity

This ordinance does not just regulate an existing use—it creates a new permitted business type within our residential and institutional zoning categories. This represents a major shift in the City's land use policy, opening the door to commercial-style operations in areas that have traditionally been preserved for neighborhood stability.

### 2. Introduction of Business Operations into Residential Areas

By adding Child Caring Institutions to the UDC, the City would be explicitly authorizing the placement of facilities that function as businesses in our neighborhoods. These operations bring staffing, reporting, licensing, and traffic impacts that are fundamentally different from traditional residential uses.

### 3. Risk of Precedent for Other Institutional Expansions

Once the UDC is expanded to include this new category, it becomes difficult to limit future requests for similar institutional uses. This ordinance could set a precedent for further commercialization of

residential districts under the guise of “institutional care.”

#### 4. Alternative Pathways Exist

Georgia’s Department of Human Services and RCCL already oversee these institutions and have authority to locate them in appropriate places. Powder Springs does not need to expand its UDC to create new allowances that invite institutional business models into our community.

#### My Request:

Please vote NO on Ordinance 2025-016. At minimum, I urge you to table this amendment and seek further public input before expanding the UDC to permit this new business use within the City.

Protecting and strengthening our neighborhoods should remain the priority. Expanding the UDC to introduce this type of 24-hour business operation creates burdensome risks to residential stability that outweigh the benefits.

If the Council chooses to move forward with adopting an ordinance regarding Child Caring Institutions, I respectfully ask that you also give the attached revised ordinance consideration. This draft reflects refinements designed to balance child safety, neighborhood protection, and consistency with State oversight.

Importantly, I believe any ordinance of this significance (affecting the most vulnerable children) deserves greater public review and feedback prior to adoption. Opening the revised draft to residents and stakeholders will ensure the final regulations reflect both the City’s policy objectives and the community’s expectations.

Please be advised that I also plan to sign up and speak in opposition to this ordinance and respond to your questions at the City Council meeting on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Sincerely,  
Johnnie Purify  
3152 Woodberry Farm Lane