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June 4, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council Members of Palm Beach

Subject: Application for Three-Times-a-Week DJ for Coyo Taco, Zoning Case No. Z-19-00211

At a time when the Town Council is holding its meetings by teleconference to maintain social distancing during the Coronavirus pandemic, Coyo Taco is submitting an application to pack people into a small room three nights a week, drawing them in with a DJ. This proposal is undoubtedly based on the same business model that Coyo Taco had when it brought a similar application to the Town Council in August 2019, while many residents were not in town: Promote Coyo Taco's DJ party nights across a wide region to draw late-night business in and add another revenue stream for the taco restaurant.

The Council should reject Coyo Taco's application for a Special Exception (Zoning Case No. Z-19-00211), which will be heard at the June 10 teleconference Council meeting. The proposal not only ignores the current Covid-19 crisis; it also defies the opposition voiced by Town residents last November, after Coyo Taco had to reschedule the hearing of its application from August to November 2019, following public objection to the timing of its summertime pitch.

The application should be rejected in no small part because it is opposed by neighboring residents and will have a negative impact on them, on nearby businesses and on the Town. As important is the principled argument made against Coyo Taco's prior, November 2019 re-application: That the bid for a Special Exception reflects a cynical assumption that votes by the Council and opposition by residents can be ignored, because the developer or business in question can simply come back again and smooth-talk, manipulate and wear down the Town Council until the applicant gets the vote it wants. At the November 2019 Council meeting, confused voting resulted in Coyo Taco being granted a test period to have a DJ one night a week. Council members who voted against the weekend-night DJ relied on a principled argument: that recently considered and approved decisions by the Council should not be reversed merely based on relentless re-visiting of rejected applications.

It should also be noted that the renewed application by Coyo Taco makes a non-credible claim that the restaurant has "collected information" that its proposed late-night DJ meets a Town-serving requirement. However, the Agenda for the Council meeting on June 10 indicates that this "information" will not be posted online but instead "will be presented to the Town Council

during the public hearing on this application,” a hearing that residents will be hampered from participating in during the social-distancing teleconference meeting.

When Coyo Taco made its request for a DJ in 2017, the Town Council rejected that application, explicitly deciding that there would be “no DJ.” Residents would like to see the Town Council stand up for principle again and reject the renewed Special Exception application by Coyo Taco.

Sincerely,
Simon Taylor, Town resident