

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** David Cook <dcc1040@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 9, 2025 10:21 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Discussion of Temple to be built in Flying Horse

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Hello,  
I cannot attend the May 15 meeting due to being out of town....

But my single comment regarding the Morman Tabernacle to be built in Flying Horse open space is this:

Architecturally, does it have to look like something straight out of the Middle East, form 800 years ago?

If this is going to be Flying Horse's first church.... Couldn't the architecture be something that blends with, uplifts, and reflects the beauty of our Colorado mountains & skies?

I guess I just don't like the OLD design; and I don't think it will enhance the beauty of our community & homes

Thank you.  
David Cook

\*David C. Cook\*  
\*[dcc1040@gmail.com](mailto:dcc1040@gmail.com) <[dcc1040@gmail.com](mailto:dcc1040@gmail.com)>\*

\*847-668-8641 (cell)\*

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** James Hanson <hanson4az@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 12:18 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Church bldg

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

Hello! I wanted to express my opinion on the proposal for the new temple to be built in Flying Horse. I have nothing against those who have that faith. However, the style of their church buildings are usually quite an eyesore and it would not blend in with the housing in FH. Please consider another location for the proposed temple.

Warm regards,

Brenda Hanson  
Sent from my iPhone

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** tracie@11johnsons.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 3:31 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** DEPN-25-0056 (Colorado Springs Temple)

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the notification I received in the mail about the above referenced project. It was very helpful to participate in the first meeting that was held at the church. It was useful to see the plat of the property as well as the renderings of the buildings. We welcome the buildings and the grounds that were presented. They will be much more appealing and contribute to our neighborhood so much more than the vacant lot of weeds that currently exist. We support this project.

Warmly,  
Tracie Johnson  
(13301 Penfold Drive)

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Lara Matissek <laramatisek@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2025 10:24 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Mormon temple in flying horse

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Tamara and To the Flying Horse HOA Board and Colorado Springs Government Officials,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed construction of a temple by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in the Flying Horse neighborhood.

While I respect the right of all religious groups to worship freely, I have serious concerns about the appropriateness of this development within our residential community. The proposed size and function of the temple would significantly alter the character of our neighborhood and raise a number of pressing issues, including:

- **Traffic and Safety:** Increased traffic volumes, especially during peak service times or events, could compromise the safety of our streets, particularly for families with young children and pedestrians.
- **Zoning and Land Use Compatibility:** A large-scale religious structure may not align with existing zoning regulations or the intended residential nature of Flying Horse. Allowing such a development could set a precedent for future projects that further erode the community's design and intent.
- **Light, Noise, and Aesthetic Impact:** Structures of this scale often operate late into the evening, which may bring unwanted lighting and noise. Additionally, the architecture may not conform to the design standards upheld in our community, potentially impacting property values.
- **Environmental and Infrastructure Strain:** Increased water usage, waste management, and utility demands may strain local infrastructure not designed for high-occupancy facilities.

I urge the Flying Horse HOA and the City of Colorado Springs to prioritize the integrity, values, and long-term vision of our community. Please take these concerns into serious consideration and deny approval for this proposed development. I understand the LDS church may have purchased this land, but this land should be for homes.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing commitment to preserving the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Lara Matissek  
(She/her/hers)  
12765 Pensador Dr

Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
Milan Village/Flying Horse resident

May 21, 2025

Ms. Tamara Baxter  
Planning + Neighborhood Services,  
Land Use Review Division  
30 S. Nevada, Suite 701  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-1575

**RE: Colorado Springs Temple, DEPN-25-0056**

Hello, Tamara,

I'm responding to the notice about the planned Mormon temple and have thoughts and questions for you.

Last week, my husband and I attended the open house provided by the Mormons to show drawings for and answer questions about the planned development. This development will directly affect us because we live right across Flying Horse Club Drive from where the temple and surrounding parking lot will be built. The following are our concerns:

1. Public Safety Questions

a. Increased traffic load

- From a safety standpoint, **is it in the public's best interest to allow a development of this size at all right to be built right in the middle of a densely populated area like ours?** The parking lot that surrounds the temple will provide 400 parking spaces, which suggests that it could accommodate several hundred at a time, conservatively figuring 4 people per vehicle. The traffic load during events at the church will be greatly increased and interruptive to the lives of the residents living around it.

b. Evacuation in Emergencies?

- **Is there a sufficient number of exit routes should evacuation of this area be required in emergency conditions?** Current plans show one entrance/exit to the facility off of Veneto Road. Exiting left onto Veneto, cars would go around the two traffic circles and then exit right to reach Hwy 83. Exiting left onto Veneto, cars would enter the flow south to Ridgeline and then down to Voyager. **Would these two routes afford adequate exodus?**

2. No night lighting

- a. In short: no resident wants lighting on the church or in the parking lot at night. This structure will be erected in a large, densely populated, already well-established neighborhood. Its presence must be minimized and an effective and successful effort must be made to accommodate those who already inhabit this location.
- b. Because our house lies directly across Flying Horse Club Drive from the planned structure, we are directly affected, certainly more than most. The brightness and spread of the lights at night, particularly in the large parking lot, will produce unwanted and unacceptable glare.
  - i. Down lighting alone will not address the spread and glare of parking lots lights perched on tall poles. The daylight-like effect will destroy the peacefulness of a neighborhood at night. And, that's just what this is – a neighborhood.
  - ii. Representatives at the open house last week said that trees will be planted around the temple to reduce glare from lighting. I see two problems with this:
    - 1. The representatives said that the trees would be young ones. This means that it will take years before their natural spread could affect glare.

2. If these trees are deciduous, considering our climate, they will be bare a good time of the year and thus ineffective in providing protection from nighttime glare.

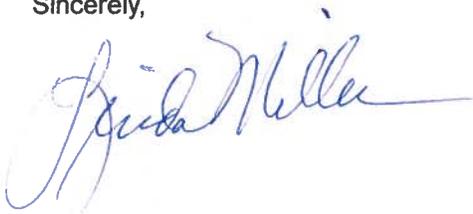
3. Height limit?

The architectural drawings at the open house showed a large temple structure whose spire would project 14 floors (139 ft.) into the air, thus ruining views and enjoyment of the natural landscape for those who live here and chose to live here for that reason.

➤ **Is there a height limit for structures built into existing populated areas?**

Tamara, we appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Linda Miller

12982 Cupcake Heights

Colorado Springs, CO 80921

[Lmiller@illinoisalumni.org](mailto:Lmiller@illinoisalumni.org)

319 331-2380

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Dave Phillips <dapmnp@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2025 1:50 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Mormon Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Hi Tamara: I live in Flying Horse and will have a direct view of the Temple. **Will there be public hearings on the development plan?** The Flying Horse community definitely wants a public hearing to raise our concerns. One issue is that if the city requires that the lights on the Temple are turned off at night, the church will do that. We want the lights out at night. Dave Phillips, 13083 Cake Bread Hts, C.S. 80921. dapmnp@msn.com

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Dave Phillips <dapmrp@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025 12:27 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** input to the Mormon Temple project

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Tamara: The city should be thinking of ways to blunt the impact of such a big building like the Mormon Temple in a residential neighborhood. One idea is to have large berms around the outside of the property. Trees on top of the berm could be a way blunt the impact. Dave Phillips

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Dave Phillips <dapmrp@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025 11:23 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Fw: Mormon Temple

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Tamara: One additional concern. The trees surrounding the property need to be a good size to blunt the 400 parking spaces and the huge bldg. This requirement should be because the Temple will be in a residential neighborhood. The models shown at the Open House showed mature trees. The church is not likely to plant larger trees unless the city requires it. Thanks. Dave Phillips

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**From:** Dave Phillips <dapmrp@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2025 1:49 PM  
**To:** Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov <Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov>  
**Subject:** Mormon Temple

Hi Tamara: I live in Flying Horse and will have a direct view of the Temple. **Will there be public hearings on the development plan?** The Flying Horse community definitely wants a public hearing to raise our concerns. One issue is that if the city requires that the lights on the Temple are turned off at night, the church will do that. We want the lights out at night. Dave Phillips, 13083 Cake Bread Hts, C.S. 80921. dapmrp@msn.com

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 12:45 PM  
**To:** Richard Reeves  
**Subject:** RE: Colorado Springs Temple questions  
**Attachments:** Greencard\_Accela steps.pdf

Mr. Reeves,  
Thank you for your email and interest in this project.  
I have responded to your questions below in red.  
Let me know if you have any additional questions.



**Tamara Baxter**  
**Planning Supervisor – North Planning Area Team**  
Planning Department  
City of Colorado Springs  
Main Office: (719) 385-5905  
Direct: (719) 385-5621  
Email: [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

***NOTE: I will be out of the office June 2<sup>nd</sup> - June 12<sup>th</sup>.***

### **Links:**

[Planning and Neighborhood Services](#)  
[Look at Applications Online \(LDRS\) \[before August 8, 2022\]](#)  
[Look at Applications Online \[after August 8, 2022\]](#) | [ACA Guide](#)  
[Pre-Application Meeting Request](#)  
[Application & Checklists](#)

 *Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

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**From:** Richard Reeves <[ibcycling@icloud.com](mailto:ibcycling@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 9:13 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara <[Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov)>  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Temple questions

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Hello Tamara,

Questions regarding the recent Planning Department notification of a neighborhood meeting for the proposed development of the Colorado Springs Temple:

Is this a formal hearing by the Planning Department to accept comments regarding the proposed project? There is no hearing for this project, unless the decision on this project is appealed (by a member of the public or the applicant depending on what the ultimate decision is on the project). I am accepting public comments. They can be emailed to me and will be made part of the record. The applicant team is required to address public comment with any resubmittals. The city file is DEPN-25-0056. I have attached some brief steps to assist with viewing the documents that were submitted.

Will there be other meetings for area residents to attend and submit comments? There is a neighborhood/open house meeting tonight. 7:30p to 9:30p at 8710 Lexington Drive. Pending public comments received during the initial review of this project will determine if an additional neighborhood meeting will be required of the applicant.

Why is this meeting organized and hosted by the project applicant and not the Planning Department in a neutral site? The Applicant team wanted to have a neighborhood meeting prior to making a formal submittal, which the planning department supported. Neighborhood meetings are facilitated by the applicant. Nonetheless, planning prepares the posters (posted at the site) and postcards (mailed to property owners within 1000' of the property). Planning staff does attend the neighborhood meeting to provide details related to city process. Regarding the location, the applicant asked, and planning agreed, for the meeting to be located at a meeting house, similar in size to what is being proposed at the subject site. The Applicant team has been made aware that if a future neighborhood meeting is necessary, it will need to occur near the site. Refer to UDC Section 7.5.402 for more details of a neighborhood meeting.

At what stage in the Planning Department process is the proposed project? It does not appear in the Development Tracker. The Applicant made a formal submittal the last submittal cycle. Postcards are in the process of being mailed out and the property will be posted with all the information and should be visible on Development Tracker. As noted above, feel free to email me with your comments on the project and they will be passed along to the applicant team to address with their resubmittal.

Thank you.

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Judi Stansbury <gjstans@centurylink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 11:00 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** LDS Temple/Flying Horse

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Ms Baxter,

I am responding to a request to contact the Planning Commission regarding any concerns I have regarding the proposed LDS Temple in Flying Horse community.

I have only two concerns:

- That the building conform in design and/or color to the Tuscany theme of Flying Horse
- That low-light restrictions be considered for night time lighting

Sincerely,

Judi Stansbury

12988 Cupcake Hts

Colorado Springs, CO 80921

gjstans@centurylink.net

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** TobogganHill <mlfnoonan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 7:46 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Mormon temple in flying Horse

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I have a couple of questions after attending the LDS open house

- 1) they only showed renderings of the front of the temple but the rear of the temple is what will face our neighborhood. Please provide rendering of rear of temple
  - 2). Lighting should be turned off no later than 9pm to avoid negatively impacting residents.
  - 3). There was no mention of a fence around the temple yet other temples all have fences. Why did they not disclose this
  - 4) what hours and days will the church building have large attendance. They would not give a direct answer on this
  5. Will there be a fountain on the grounds
  6. Will the ground be open for neighbors to walk through. I was given an evasive answer on this
- Thank you for all the efforts that you will make to ensure that the quality of our neighborhood and lives are not negatively impacted by this

Sent from my iPhone

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Steve Verderaime <spv180@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 7:57 AM  
**To:** amanda.verderaime@yahoo.com; Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Re: [#XN9831497] City of Colorado Springs: Neighborhood Open House May 15, 2025

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Thanks Tamara,

It looks like the meeting is at a Mormon Church. I'd like to express my concerns but don't feel I will be able to do in that setting. I have actual concerns about this type of construction but feel it would be misconstrued as opposing the religion. I think the traffic coming into the neighborhood will increase significantly. Church traffic is ironically more intense and angry than typical which concerns me for the children in the area crossing Ridgeline to get to the park. It's also on a road that's bisecting two roundabouts, so if the traffic in the area gets bogged up the roundabout become ineffective. I was told when I moved here that powers would not be given any off ramps either making the only two entries on Ridgeline and Flying horse club drive. I am also concerned that there wont be one dime of property tax paid by this establishment. My neighbors and I will pay the taxes for this infrastructure essentially subsidizing it. Is there any way the citizens in the area can request a vote on this?

Thanks  
Steve

On Monday, May 12, 2025 at 11:29:50 AM MDT, Baxter, Tamara <tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov> wrote:

Mr. and Mrs. Verderaime,

Thank you for your email and interest in this project.

The postcard that was sent out was for a neighborhood /open house meeting on the project prior to a formal submittal.

Residents are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more about the project and what is being proposed.

This Thursday (5/15); from 7:30p to 9:30p at 8710 Lexington Drive.

The applicant team, at the time of sending out the meeting notification, had not made a formal submittal with the city.

They did last week. The City file number is DEPN-25-0056.

I have attached some brief steps to view the documents submitted.

Notification has not yet been sent out for this formal submittal. This will occur this week. Plus, the property will be reposted and the QR code will link to you the city file.

Feel free to email me with any comments. They will be made part of the initial review period.

Let me know if you have any additional questions.



**Tamara Baxter**

**Planning Supervisor – North Planning Area Team**

Planning Department

City of Colorado Springs

Main Office: (719) 385-5905

Direct: (719) 385-5621

Email: [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

***NOTE: I will be out of the office June 2<sup>nd</sup> - June 12<sup>th</sup>.***

**Links:**

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[Pre-Application Meeting Request](#)

[Application & Checklists](#)

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

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**From:** Steve Verderaime <spv180@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 11, 2025 11:22 AM  
**To:** amanda.verderaime@yahoo.com; Baxter, Tamara <Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [#XN9831497] City of Colorado Springs: Neighborhood Open House May 15, 2025

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Tamara,

Hello, I am a resident of the Flying Horse neighborhood and was curious about this meeting? Is this to gauge the response of the community to this news? Will the outcome or responses of this meeting have any bearing on the decision for the plans of this church?

Thanks

Steve Verderaime

On Friday, May 9, 2025 at 04:36:35 PM MDT, Community Care <[communitycare@ehammersmith.com](mailto:communitycare@ehammersmith.com)> wrote:

Dear Flying Horse Residents,

As a courtesy on behalf of the City of Colorado Springs, we are sharing details about an upcoming neighborhood open house regarding the proposed plans and designs for the new temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints within the Flying Horse community.

**Meeting Details:**

**Date:** May 15, 2025

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** 8710 Lexington Dr.

If you have any questions, please contact City Case Planner Tamara Baxter:

**Phone:** 719-385-5621

**Email:** [Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

For more information about the project and details on how to attend, please visit:  
**[coloradosprings.gov/DevelopmentTracker](https://coloradosprings.gov/DevelopmentTracker)**

Thank you for your attention.

Have a nice weekend.

***Flying Horse HOA Management***

**Phone:** 719-389-0700 (option 3 for the Colorado Springs Regional office, then option 3 again for the Flying Horse HOA Management Team)

**Homeowner Portal:** <https://portal.ehammersmith.com>

Sincerely,

Hammersmith Colorado Springs Office on behalf of FLYING HORSE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
719-389-0700 | eHammersmith.com



[To unsubscribe, please visit your Portal.](#)



## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** MONICA FUCHS <smskfuchs@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 11:43 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Cc:** MONICA FUCHS  
**Subject:** Input for mormon temple  
**Attachments:** 20250520\_141621.jpg

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Ms Baxter, our main concern for the new Mormon temple is night lighting. The temple is being built between the majority of houses and the mountains. Of course, all of our homes were built to maximize our mountain views, meaning the temple will be front and center.

Please ensure all lighting (especially the parking lights) direct downward, and that THEY ARE TURNED OFF AT A REASONABLE HOUR AND NOT ON ALL NIGHT. At their open house, they told us they would leave lights on all night unless the city restricted this. This is a residential area. PLEASE PLEASE restrict the lights being on all night. As you can see from the photo, our entire view along the back of our home will be the side and back parking. Long winter nights and bare trees will cause day glo lighting into our entire house!

Scott and Monica Fuchs  
13094 Cake Bread Hts

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device



## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** SHERRY SHEPHERD <shepherd5235@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 3:08 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Re: DPN-25-0056\_Colorado Springs Temple

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Tamara,

Thank you for the information.

Here are our initial concerns:

- \*Compliance with HOA the building estetics and landscaping
- \*No parking on Barossa Valley Rd
- \*Light pollutions concerns
- \*During Peak Traffic the accessibilitiy of the neighborhood
- \*Maintaining Property Value

No homeless shelters on property.

Thank you,

Mike and Sherry Shepherd

On 05/30/2025 1:33 PM MDT Baxter, Tamara <tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov> wrote:

Sherry,

Per our phone call.

Attached are some brief instructions to view the documents submitted for this project.



Tamara Baxter

Planning Supervisor – North Planning Area Team

Planning Department

City of Colorado Springs

Main Office: (719) 385-5905

Direct: (719) 385-5621

Email: [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

**NOTE: I will be out of the office June 2<sup>nd</sup> - June 12<sup>th</sup>.**

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## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Cathy Thompson <cathythom7587@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 5:00 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Colorado Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Ms. Baxter,

We are the original owners 2026 Villa Creek Circle in the Flying Horse development. We purchased our property in November, 2016. At that time we were not informed by Classic Homes or their sales people that there would be a Temple at the location in question.

My comments/questions about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints property at Barossa Valley Rd and Flying Horse Club Dr are as following:

- 1) The property was noted on the Amendment#13 (Park Dedication/Open Space) that it was Public/Institutional. We were given the Amendment #13 before we purchased our property. What is the definition for Institutional per ordinance? Our understanding was this property was purchased for the Temple in 2012. Who was the property purchased from?
- 2) Our understanding is the Temple will have a 140' spire. Why does Colorado Springs allow this 140' height in a residential neighborhood? Please quote the ordinance on building height in residential areas.
- 3) We are of the understanding the spire will be lit in its entirety for 24/7. In our opinion this will light up the entire area surrounding the property. We like the fact that Colorado Springs was a 'dark' City when we moved here. All exterior lighting should face down, not up to the sky. How is the Temple lighting going to be addressed? Is this going to be another thorn for us like Ford Amphitheater?
- 4) Upon purchasing our property, we were required to sign that we were aware that USAFA training cadets would be flying over our house and adjacent areas. How is this 140' going to affect us and USAFA cadets with their flights? Will this spire have the red flashing light for high structures?
- 5) Will Powers Blvd. have egress and ingress at Flying Horse Club Drive? On Amendment #13 only entrance for Powers is on Voyager and Hwy 83.
- 6) What will happen to our property values and what about increased traffic?

Thank you very much for your time to read my comments,

Cathy Thompson

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Janelle Watkins <adamsjanelle@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 12:40 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Project Near Barossa Valley Way

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Good afternoon, Ms. Baxter,

My name is Janelle Watkins, and I am a resident of Flying Horse who will live near the proposed Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Temple, meeting house, and maintenance building. I wanted to write to express my concerns about a few issues surrounding the building of the temple.

First, the temple is proposed to be 14 stories tall at it's top--surely, that has to be taller than is allowed in this area, given that most building here are no more than 2 stories tall. This will provide an eyesore for the community--is there any way that the tallest point could be shorter than 14 stories (say 5 - 7 stories) tall?

Second, normally temples keep their lights on at night--however, I would request that the city require that the temple turn off the lights at night to be considerate of their neighbors and those living near the temple.

Finally, with how much parking is going to be available, I would request that they plant mature trees around the perimeter of the lot to help offset the visual appearance of so many parking spots in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

If you have any questions about my comments, feel free to email me or call me.

Thank you for your time and for listening to my concerns regarding the proposed temple building.

Kind Regards,

Janelle Watkins

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Denise Burt <deniseburtteam@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 7:49 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Project Number DEPN-25-0056 Mormon Temple in Flying Horse

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Dear Tamara,

Below are a few concerns about the building of this huge temple and meeting place church.

1. Height restrictions in Flying Horse. The spire on top of the temple is way over the height restrictions set in place for our community at the proposed 140 feet (14 stories)!!! I have some members of my family who are Mormon and I know how enormous their temples are as well as the spires. This is a huge concern.
2. I was told by a church representative that they leave the lights of the temple on at night. For us who live right next to the roundabout entry into Flying Horse, this would be a big intrusion into our night time sleep.
3. The proposed outside lighting plans are also a huge concern as well. It would be like living next to a lit up commercial complex! This needs to be seriously looked into.
3. If we cannot stop this temple from being built (we vote NO) a must would be large sized trees initially surrounding the entire property, not small ones that take years to grow. The parking lot looks huge, a lot of asphalt, not to mention the 40,000 sf temple! Large trees would at least buffer the sight of all the asphalt and the big temple.

Thank you for your consideration.

Denise and Nolen Burt, Siena East  
719-460-6424

Denise Burt

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Roxanne Smith <roxfrisco@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 9:58 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** COS Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

A few concerns for record number DEPN-25-0056:

- Will Colorado's Dark Sky policy be enforced?
- Why does the tip of the spire need to be 239' off the ground? Surely that can be lowered as has been done in several other cities where there were complaints.
- The roundabout at Barossa and Veneto is a tight single lane. Construction vehicles will surely damage the stamped surface and perhaps the landscaping edging. How will the city handle repairs of that roundabout? At the town meeting hosted by LDS, I was told that LDS would do whatever the city required for repairs.
- The increase in traffic will surely take away from our neighborhood feel.

On a positive note, the landscaping plans we were shown will certainly be an improvement over the tumbleweeds we have now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roxanne Smith  
14081 Penfold Dr.  
COS

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Jaymein Argyle <jaymein.anderson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 12:49 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Zoning and Planning for proposed Temple in Flying Horse

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

To the committee,

Thank you for considering my letter in regards to the zoning and planning of the Latter-Day Saint temple in the Flying Horse community. I myself have lived in the community for the past five years. Moving from an overseas military location my family immediately found community in Flying Horse. My children have attended Discovery Canyon Campus and TCA-North. Although we are not members of the club, we have enjoyed many activities offered there.

As well as being a member of the Flying Horse community I am also a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Since being a small child I have found peace at the temple. The grounds are reverent and beautiful. Even now, I will picnic on the grounds of the Denver temple with my children. We walk and enjoy the beauty of nature on the grounds and feel at peace. The temple is a sacred and quiet place where I can feel peace. Similarly to when I am hiking in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. I have visited temples of our church all around the world. Every location brings the same feelings. Whether I'm in Las Vegas, Nevada, Los Angeles, California, Manhattan, NY or Taipei, Taiwan. The temple is a quiet addition to neighborhoods and cities.

I know there are concerns with the lighting, noise and traffic in the neighborhood with the addition of the temple. As a resident of the community I had the same concerns with Ford Amphitheater and King Soopers Market Place. Both of which produce more light, traffic and noise than what a temple actually would. Traffic around the temple will be less than the traffic on Hawkstone Drive, Wattle Creek and Silverton Road during fall and spring Pride soccer seasons.

The temple only operates Tuesday through Saturday being closed on Sunday and Monday. The temple operates very closely to that of a normal church. As members we attend to renew our personal covenants with God. Marriages do take place at the temple and cheers when a new couple walks out of the temple doors cheers ensue, but are not long lasting like the concerts at the Amphitheater. These cheers will be no more loud than kids playing in their yards or at the neighboring Lizard Leap park and will only last a few seconds.

I do appreciate the openness to have these discussions about the proposed future temple site. I can understand the hesitation in the community. The light, sound and traffic will be less of an impact to the neighborhood than the new additions like the Amphitheater, King Soopers or the proposed extension of powers and 83 right through the neighborhood. I am grateful for freedom of speech and religion in our great nation. It will be an incredible blessing for not only me, but to other members in the lower Colorado and Kansas. The distance will be so much closer than driving to Highlands Ranch or Fort Collins.

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Michael Robert Argyle <mrargyle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 12:28 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** LDS Temple in Flying Horse

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Esteemed Members of the Planning and Zoning Committee,

I have lived in Flying Horse for the last 5 years while stationed at the USAF Academy. I wanted to express my feelings regarding the announcement of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint Colorado Springs Temple which has recently been announced to be located in Flying Horse. Bottom line up front - this is going to be an amazing addition to our community.

I have been to several LDS Temples located throughout the world including many in the United States. They are typically located in 'good' areas in town, adding beauty and value to the respective areas. Small numbers of members of our church will be going Tuesday through Saturday, will barely make an impact to traffic. There will not be increased noise as the temple is a place to covenant and reflect with God indoors and is not an outdoor gathering center. The temples will typically minimize light pollution by focusing lights to the building and required areas in the parking to focus on safety. The members living in Colorado Springs will be able to minimize their drive times by no longer being required to drive further into Denver (currently the closest LDS temple).

I look forward to being able to look out my windows from Northgate and see another iconic religious building (Air Force Academy's chapel) to help remind people to be good to each other. People have expressed concerns regarding temples in multiple cities in the past - only to find out they have been very beneficial neighbors in the communities. There will always be dissent among some members of the community, we are glad they have the freedoms to express themselves. We just hope that we will be able to express our freedoms of religion as well, without disturbing this great community as this space has been zoned as a religious lot for several years, and people have moved in knowing that. Ford Amphitheater and King Soopers have recently been added to the community through moderate protest and both of these establishments bring in much more 'negative' affects of traffic, crime, blocking views and noise pollution than what a temple would.

Thanks for your time to read my thoughts,

Lt Col (Dr) Michael Argyle, DO  
A resident of the Flying Horse Community

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Sarah Arnett <sarahlarnett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 1, 2025 1:51 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Flying Horse temple property

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Hello Tamara,

I was walking my dog this morning and saw the sign inviting comments about the proposed plan for a new temple on Barossa Valley Road in Flying Horse. I live nearby and walk or drive past this property daily.

I am very much in support of this plan for three main reasons--added beauty, increased property value, and security.

I have seen temples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in many other cities and have always admired their beauty. Temple properties are meticulously maintained and thoughtfully landscaped. I love my community in Flying Horse. People take good care of their property and pride in their home. The temple will add beauty to an already beautiful neighborhood.

Neighborhoods with temples often have higher property value than the surrounding area. As a homeowner, I'm cognisant of my home investment. The temple will increase property values nearby which benefits everyone.

The LDS church also does a great job at securing the property and adding a sense of safety to the community. Temples are often well-lit, have great surveillance, and sometimes even 24/7 security. This will add increased protection for nearby homes, and of course that is always welcome.

I hope the plan moves forward. I only see positive benefits to building a temple in Flying Horse.

Kind regards,  
Sarah Arnett

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Gabe Black <gabebblack@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 10:37 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Temple feedback

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Hello Tamara,

I saw the sign posted that solicited feedback/concerns for the temple planned in the Flying Horse neighborhood where I live.

I regularly drive to the temple located in the Denver area in order to worship in scheduled small meetings. I have never seen what anyone would consider a high amount of traffic in that neighborhood. The traffic patterns are always a trickle.

I have zero concerns about “increased traffic” because it won’t be noticeable.

I have several children that I drive to sports and I drive by the temple location on a daily basis for those events. Having kids generates much more traffic haha.

As far as a visual impact, I do look forward to the beautiful building. I am actually much more concerned about having powers cut through the neighborhood — especially concerned about the noise impact. I anticipate that to be much more of a concern and in fact, a nuisance.

I went to the temple open house and talked to their civil engineer and architect. While they didn’t have any direct plans to mitigate the visual impact or noise impact of powers (they also said that the city didn’t have/make available much detail in regards to powers), they did say that the landscaping that surround the temple will naturally have a dampening affect.

Anyway, I know with projects you often only hear the “naysayers”, so I hope that there are those like myself (that are often silent on matters) aren’t ignored.

I am strongly in favor of having a temple closer where my family can worship. I feel that often society allows edifices that have degrading effects on society without a second thought.

I think you will be hard-pressed to find a more law-abiding, society-benefiting people than the kind of people that frequent LDS temples.

This is a good thing for Colorado Springs.

Thank you for your time.

Very respectfully,

Gabriel Black  
1829 Walnut Creek Court  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
719-210-1807

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Rebecca Black <beccahblack@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:13 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** LDS Temple in Colorado Springs

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Hello,

I am a resident of Flying Horse, and I am very excited they are planning to build a temple in our neighborhood! Temples are absolutely beautiful buildings around the world and always very quiet, reverent places. I love how well they keep the grounds and have the prettiest flower beds. As a struggling gardener myself, I don't know how they keep all the flowers constantly in bloom! 😊 People are trickling in and out during the day, not too many all at once, so there shouldn't be hardly any traffic concerns. Temples are also closed on Sundays and Mondays, so on those days there will be zero traffic.

I am thrilled that we will have a temple close by. We used to have to drive all the way to Denver to attend the temple, so having one close by will definitely save on gas and car mileage.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Black  
1829 Walnut Creek Court  
719-233-4802

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Mark Braun <mark.f.braun@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 11:38 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Cc:** Andrea Braun  
**Subject:** Full and Complete Support for the Proposed LDS Church Temple in Colorado Springs (Flying Horse neighborhood)

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Ms. Tamara Baxter,

My name is Mark Braun, and my wife Andrea and I are 14-yr residents of the Flying Horse neighborhood, where the proposed temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is planned. As members of the Church and longtime supporters of this community, we would like to express our full and enthusiastic support for the temple and our gratitude for the thoughtful way this committee has handled this process.

Although we were unable to attend the recent open house you recently held, we heard from several neighbors and fellow Church members how informative, respectful, and thorough the presentation was. **Thank you** for providing such clarity around important concerns such as traffic flow, lighting, and neighborhood impact. Your commitment to transparency and communication is deeply appreciated.

We also recognize that not everyone shares the same views, beliefs, or feelings about the proposed temple as we do. Andrea and I, along with fellow members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, fully respect and honor the rights of others to express their opinions, concerns, and perspectives. A community is made stronger when all feel their voice is heard. We welcome open, respectful dialogue, and we thank you for allowing all voices to be heard, regardless of opinion or viewpoint. It's through this exchange of ideas that we can build greater understanding, cooperation, and unity in our community—regardless of our differences.

As residents living just minutes from the proposed site, Andrea and I are confident that the temple will be a sublime and peaceful addition not just to the Flying Horse

neighborhood, but to the entire city of Colorado Springs. Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are known for their timeless architectural beauty, immaculate landscaping, and quiet, reverent atmosphere. They are carefully maintained and deeply respected by Church members and surrounding communities alike. We believe this temple will enhance the visual appeal and elevate the quiet and welcoming spirit of our neighborhood. The Church goes to great lengths to ensure that each temple reflects the unique character of its setting, incorporating elements of local geography, culture, and natural beauty into the design. This thoughtful approach ensures that the temple not only serves its members but stands as a symbol of unity, respect, and harmony within the broader community of which it is a part.

To aid in maintaining the spirit of our neighborhood and great city of Colorado Springs, the temple will not be open on Sundays or Monday, and throughout the week, patrons come in small numbers at various times of day—meaning traffic will remain light, consistent, and unobtrusive. There will be no loud events or disruptive gatherings. The grounds will be quiet, serene, and thoughtfully lit according to city code, with all lighting directed inward toward the building and parking areas for safety without creating unnecessary light pollution.

As with ALL sacred structures from any religion and faith community in Colorado Springs, the temple is more than just a building. The temple represents a sacred space for personal commitment, worship, and spiritual growth. As a member of the Church, I can say that the covenants we make with God in the temple inspire us to live better lives—to be more honest, charitable, family-centered, and service-oriented. This motivation extends beyond our own faith community and leads us to engage in efforts that strengthen neighborhoods, care for those in need, and create a more united, respectful society. These values make us better neighbors and contributors to the greater good of Colorado Springs.

Though the steeple is taller than the main structure, it is beautifully proportioned and adds a symbolic and visual elegance. Far from being a distraction, it gently draws the eye upward and serves as a quiet reminder of hope, reverence, and shared human values.

Perhaps most personally, having a temple here in Colorado Springs will be a tremendous blessing. Currently, many of us travel to Denver to participate in temple

worship. Having one right here in our city will make it easier for members to worship more often, serve more readily, and deepen our commitment to living purposeful, service-oriented lives, greatly enhancing the welcoming and embracing spirit of Colorado Springs.

Thank you again for your time, attention, and thoughtful consideration of this project. Andrea and I fully support the construction of this temple in Flying Horse and are confident it will be a beautiful and peaceful addition to our neighborhood and city. As is the case with all temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—and, indeed, with every place of worship across ALL faiths—we believe this temple will be an uplifting and inspiring presence in our community and throughout Colorado Springs for generations to come.

With warmest regards and appreciation,

Mark and Andrea Braun

Residents of Flying Horse

2128 Diamond Creek Drive, Village of Syrah

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

(719) 425-7852 | [mark.f.braun@icloud.com](mailto:mark.f.braun@icloud.com)

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Michael Clawson <michael@clawsonattorney.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 3:25 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Ms. Baxter:

I wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts regarding the recent open house for the temple. I was very impressed by the thoughtful and thorough information provided, particularly regarding the minimal impact the temple will have on traffic, surrounding views, and light pollution. It was both informative and reassuring.

The beauty and meticulous care of the temple grounds and structures were especially noteworthy. It is clear that great attention is given to maintaining the dignity and reverence of these sacred spaces. I also learned that the temple will be closed on Sundays and Mondays, and that visitors tend to arrive and depart gradually throughout the day, which means traffic should remain light and manageable. Additionally, because temples are places of quiet worship and reflection, I do not believe noise will be a concern for nearby residents.

The lighting plan also seems to have been carefully considered—it will be directed only toward the building and parking areas for safety, and will comply fully with city codes. While the steeple is tall, it is relatively small in proportion to the building and serves a symbolic purpose by drawing the eye heavenward. I find it to be a beautiful and meaningful design element.

Perhaps most importantly, the presence of a temple in this area will be a tremendous blessing for many individuals and families, as it will eliminate the need to travel to Denver to attend.

Thank you,

Michael



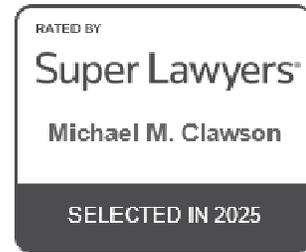
**Michael Clawson, Esq.**

Clawson & Clawson, LLP | 115 E. Vermijo Ave, Suite 101 | Colo Spgs, CO 80903  
Main 719.634.1848 | Fax 719.634.1849

Parker Office | 10233 South Parker Road, Suite 300 | Parker, CO 80134  
Main 303.805.4900 | Fax 720.528.7955

Pueblo Office | 503 N. Main Street, Suite 411 | Pueblo, CO 81003  
New Thatcher Building | Main 719.544.1919 | Fax 720.528.7955

Referrals always welcome!



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## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Janae Daniels <janaedaniels35@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:51 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** The LDS Temple in Colorado Springs

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Tamara & the Planning & Zoning Committee,

I am a resident in the Flying Horse neighborhood in Colorado Springs. I was thrilled when The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced that the site of the new temple would be in Flying Horse.

In my experience, the temples have always been stunning, peaceful buildings with beautiful landscapes and minimal traffic.

When I was in junior high school, my family moved to an area with an LDS temple. My house was a couple of blocks away from it. On the weekends, I would walk to the grounds and sit on the benches because it was so beautiful and peaceful. The grounds became a sanctuary for me.

I have fond memories of the serenity it brought to me and my neighborhood. Since then, I have not lived close to an LDS temple, so as mentioned before, the news of the LDS temple in my neighborhood has been welcomed and exciting!

Thank you,

Janae Daniels  
1919 Diamond Creek Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 89021  
719-213-0031

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Jason Daniels <jason@jasondanielshomes.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 9:00 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Strong Support for the Proposed Colorado Springs Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Tamara and Members of the Planning and Zoning Committee,

I'm writing today not only as a Colorado Springs native of nearly 50 years and a resident of Flying Horse for over 7, but as someone who deeply loves this city, values thoughtful development, and has personally felt the transformative power of sacred spaces like the proposed Colorado Springs Temple for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

First, thank you for hosting the recent open house and for the respectful, well-prepared presentation. The clarity you provided regarding traffic, views, and light pollution was genuinely appreciated. It reinforced what many of us already understand: this temple will be a beautiful, peaceful addition to our city—one that is mindful of its surroundings and consistent with the values of our community.

Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are not only sacred to our faith—they are also architectural gems. They are consistently well-maintained, reverent, and purposefully designed to complement rather than compete with the natural and residential environment.

Some key points I'd like to highlight:

- **The temple will be closed on Sundays and Mondays**, immediately easing any concerns about weekend traffic or neighborhood congestion.
- **Attendance is distributed throughout the day**, with individuals and small groups arriving and departing at different times. Unlike churches or large venues, this is not a place of mass gatherings or loud activity.
- **Temples are reverent spaces**—they are quiet, peaceful, and invite introspection. The atmosphere is one of calm, not commotion.
- **Lighting will be carefully regulated**, focused only on the building and parking areas, ensuring safety while respecting city ordinances and minimizing any light impact to neighboring homes.
- **The steeple**, though tall, is proportionately small to the overall structure and gently lifts our eyes toward heaven—a quiet visual reminder of hope, aspiration, and purpose.
- Most importantly, this temple would **remove the need for many families in the area to travel all the way to Denver**, providing us the blessing of worship and service right here in our own community.

As a real estate broker with 23 years of experience and a developer who has worked across multiple sectors in Colorado Springs, I've had the opportunity to observe the effects of thoughtful construction on neighborhoods and markets.

Temples, unlike many other large structures, have a uniquely positive influence on their surroundings. **Multiple studies across the country have shown that the presence of a temple contributes to rising property values** in surrounding neighborhoods. Why? Because they represent long-term investment, immaculate upkeep, and an immediate sense of community pride.

Furthermore, this temple will bring visitors from surrounding areas—visitors who will dine at our restaurants, stay in our hotels, and patronize local businesses. **This increased economic activity strengthens our tax base, supports our small business community, and adds vitality to our city without burdening our infrastructure.**

In summary, this project is not just a religious structure—it’s a quiet beacon of service, beauty, and community contribution. It’s an opportunity to enhance Colorado Springs not just aesthetically, but spiritually, economically, and socially.

Thank you again for your time, your openness, and your commitment to serving our city. I fully support the construction of the Colorado Springs Temple and trust that the Planning and Zoning Committee will recognize the many benefits this sacred space brings to our area.

Warmest regards,

**Jason Daniels**

Flying Horse Resident  
Colorado Springs Native  
Member, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Real Estate Broker | Developer | Finch & Gable Real Estate Co.

**JASON DANIELS**

Founder

**O.** 719.999.8910

**M.** 719.999.8909

**Colorado Springs Office**

13540 Meadowgrass Dr. Suite 205  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921



## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Cassandra Dittman <dittmanfamily2005@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 1:04 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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Good afternoon!

I would like to thank you for the open house and the informative information about the minimal impacts to traffic, views, light pollution.

The temple really is a quiet, calming place for people to go and reflect and enjoy the beautiful landscaping. The traffic really shouldn't change drastically in the area because people come and go throughout the day. There are not large crowds that come and go all at once. Plus the temple will be closed on Sundays and Mondays.

The design of the temple is beautifully but it also doesn't take away from the surrounding landscape. The steeple will be tall but not very big so it won't block views for the surrounding neighbors.

I am so excited about not having to drive all the way up to Denver to worship in the temple.

Thank you for your time!

Cassandra Dittman

Sent from my iPhone

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Scott Edgin <gscottedgin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:43 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Cc:** Shelly Edgin  
**Subject:** Strong Support for the Temple in Flying Horse - Adjacent Property Owner

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Ms. Baxter,

As residents of the Flying Horse neighborhood whose property directly borders the planned temple site, we are writing to express our strong support for the construction of the new temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We want to thank the city and project representatives for the recent open house and the comprehensive information shared about the minimal impacts on traffic flow, lighting, and sightlines. The presentation was thorough and reassuring, confirming what we have come to expect from Church-built temples worldwide: structures that enhance rather than disrupt their surrounding neighborhoods.

Temples are consistently designed with exceptional beauty and maintained to the highest standards. From meticulously manicured landscaping to quiet, secure grounds, the level of care far exceeds most public or private facilities. This new temple will bring both spiritual significance to Church members and elevate the aesthetics and peaceful character of our Flying Horse community.

### **Key benefits we anticipate:**

**Traffic management:** Temple attendance follows a steady, dispersed pattern throughout the day with no peak-hour surges or large group events that would impact neighborhood traffic flow.

**Reduced weekend activity:** The temple operates on a closed schedule Sundays and Mondays, ensuring our neighborhood maintains its quiet weekend atmosphere.

**Thoughtful lighting design:** All exterior lighting will be carefully controlled and directed only toward the temple and parking areas in full compliance with city code, with no spillover affecting nearby homes.

**Peaceful environment:** As a place of sacred, individual worship, the temple generates no amplified sounds, announcements, or social events that could disturb the neighborhood.

**Architectural harmony:** While the steeple extends above the building height, it remains modest in scale and proportion—a graceful, symbolic element that reflects the peaceful purpose of the structure.

**Community benefit:** Having a local temple eliminates the need for many residents to travel to Denver for religious ordinances, providing both spiritual and practical value to our community.

As property owners who will be most directly affected by this development, we want to emphasize the Church's well-documented commitment to maintaining properties that contribute positively to their neighborhoods. Temple grounds worldwide reflect long-term excellence in upkeep and demonstrate deep respect for community harmony.

We wholeheartedly welcome this temple as a beautiful, reverent, and uplifting addition to Flying Horse, and we hope the City of Colorado Springs will move forward with full approval.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott and Shelly Edgin  
Flying Horse Residents—Adjacent Property Owners  
Colorado Springs, CO

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Ed Ellsworth <edellsworth7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 9:21 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Church Temple Development in Flying Horse

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Good morning Tamara,

I live about 2 blocks away from the proposed temple in Flying Horse and also have a commercial property a block away at Flying Horse Club Drive and Highway 83 which I plan to develop in the coming years.

I have lived in Flying Horse for over 10 years now and have been aware of the church's plans to build the temple, so it did not come as a surprise. Classic homes has done a very good job in communicating this since the beginning as well as the Powers extension.

I also attended the open house and found it to be very informative and helpful in learning more details along with seeing both exterior and interior renderings.

### **This email is to express my absolute support of the project!**

It will be a beautiful addition to the neighborhood and to the city and based on other temples and properties that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints developed, owns and maintains, I have no doubt that it will be done at the highest quality and standards. I have friends and acquaintances that have expressed the need for more churches and places of worship which benefits the congregation that utilizes it and people of our community as a whole. I completely agree.

As a builder and developer myself, I understand the obstacles and challenges that go with many developments, including traffic, lighting, building heights, etc... and do not see any issues or have any concerns with any of these things.

As a local resident and nearby commercial property owner, I fully support this project and look forward to the many benefits it will bring to our community.

Sincerely,  
**Ed Ellsworth**  
719-339-3535

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jaymein Argyle

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Russ - <russ@russfordortho.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 6:47 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Future Temple Site in the Flying Horse Neighborhood

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Members of the Colorado Springs Planning and Zoning Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed construction of a new temple for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in our neighborhood. As a 16-year resident of Flying Horse, I am grateful for the opportunity to share my perspective and commend the thoughtful planning behind this project.

First, I want to thank the LDS Church for hosting an open house, which provided clear and informative details about the temple's minimal impacts on traffic, views, and light pollution. The presentation addressed key concerns and demonstrated the Church's commitment to being a good neighbor.

LDS temples are renowned for their beauty and meticulous upkeep. This temple will undoubtedly enhance our community's aesthetic appeal, serving as a well-maintained landmark that reflects care and reverence. The building itself will be closed on Sundays and Mondays, ensuring quiet days that align with the neighborhood's rhythm.

Regarding traffic, I am confident that the temple will not disrupt our streets. Visitors typically arrive and depart gradually throughout the day, preventing congestion. Additionally, temples are places of reverence, meaning noise levels will remain low and respectful, preserving the peace of our neighborhood.

The proposed lighting plan further demonstrates consideration for the community. By directing light solely to the building and parking areas for safety, and adhering strictly to city codes, the temple will minimize light pollution while ensuring a secure environment. The steeple, though tall, is proportionate to the building and serves as an inspiring architectural feature, subtly drawing our eyes upward in a way that complements the temple's sacred purpose.

Finally, as a resident, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have a temple in our community. For many of us, this will eliminate the need to travel to Denver to attend, making it easier to participate in meaningful worship and service. This temple will be a blessing to our neighborhood and the broader Colorado Springs area.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I respectfully urge the committee to approve the construction of this temple, which will be a beautiful, harmonious, and uplifting addition to our community.

Sincerely,

Russell H. Ford, DMD, MS  
2353 Red Edge Heights  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

[Russ@RussFordOrtho.com](mailto:Russ@RussFordOrtho.com)

719-482-5760

**Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Russ and Sheri Ford <rsford95@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 6:53 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Temple in Flying Horse Neighborhood

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Sheri Ford

2353 Red Edge Heights

Colorado Springs, CO 80921

rsford95@gmail.com

719-482-5761

Date: June 2, 2025

Planning and Zoning Committee

Colorado Springs City Council

30 South Nevada Avenue

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Members of the Planning and Zoning Committee,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks for the recent open house and clear and informative details regarding the proposed construction of the new temple for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint in Colorado Springs. It was reassuring to learn about the thorough consideration given to minimizing impacts on traffic, preserving view corridors, and addressing concerns around light pollution.

As a member of the Flying Horse community, I would like to express my strong support for this project. LDS temples are known for their architectural beauty and exceptional maintenance. They are peaceful, reverent places that add to the character of a neighborhood rather than detract from it.

Importantly, the temple will be closed on Sundays and Mondays, and traffic patterns associated with it are minimal, as visitors come and go throughout the day rather than in concentrated waves. This significantly reduces any potential congestion or burden on nearby roads.

Noise will also not be a concern. Temples are places of worship, meditation, and personal reflection—quiet by nature. They bring a spirit of calm to their surroundings rather than disruption.

Lighting around the building will be used with care and restraint, directed specifically at the structure and the adjacent parking areas, and will adhere strictly to city code. This ensures both safety and a respect for the surrounding neighborhood's character and nighttime ambiance.

Regarding the steeple, while it may be tall, it is quite modest in proportion to the overall building and serves a symbolic and aesthetic purpose—gently lifting our eyes toward heaven.

Finally, I would like to share my personal gratitude for the opportunity to have a temple closer to home. For many in the Colorado Springs area, the nearest temple has long been in Denver. Having one in our own community will be a blessing of both convenience and spiritual enrichment.

Thank you again for your time and consideration in this matter. I am confident that this temple will be a cherished and uplifting addition to our city.

Sincerely,

Sheri Ford

2 June 2025

Colorado Springs Planning and Zoning Committee,

We wanted to send a quick note to express our support of the building of a temple by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Flying Horse area. We are Flying Horse residents, and our home is about a half mile from the proposed temple site. Since it was announced that a temple and church building might occupy this site, we have been very excited because we know of the beauty and serenity that these buildings provide whenever they are built.

Growing up in Los Angeles, we remember seeing the temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the freeway and always loved the beauty it provided. We have seen the temple in Denver, and how it is also built in a primarily residential area, and we have heard how much the neighbors there appreciate the beauty and safety (with nighttime lighting) that property brings to their community.

It is normal to have some concerns whenever a new property is proposed near where people live. The main concern usually centers around how it will impact each individual/family that lives in that area. We appreciated the open house held recently and the opportunity to gain more insight into the plans for this temple specifically. It seems to us that everything has been meticulously planned, down to avoiding poor sightlines for neighborhood properties that have views of the mountains. We appreciated learning about the minimal impact on traffic due to how the building is used, with closure on Sunday and Monday, and with people coming and going in smaller groups spread throughout the day on other days of the week. With Powers Blvd. planned for construction adjacent to this site, in the future this site will have a more natural feel for the temple being there than maybe it does now in the absence of this major thoroughfare.

Our experience is that temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints add beauty and value to an area, are meticulously maintained, and once built, are appreciated by those who live near them. This temple will be a blessing to members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who must travel to Denver to attend the nearest temple.

Thank you for allowing a temple to be built in this area of Colorado.

Ryan and Stefani Frost

2206 Coyote Crest View

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Brent Frost <beefrost@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 5:14 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Flying Horse - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Temple

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Ms Baxter,

I understand from the signs posted on the lot, that you are collecting comments from the community regarding the LDS temple proposed to be built in the Flying Horse area. I am a Flying Horse and Verona neighborhood resident and I'm looking forward to having a beautiful church and quiet, well-landscaped grounds to replace the unattractive, weed-filled lot in the middle of our development. I understand the lot has been designated for a church since before the homes were built.

I appreciate the open house that was held at the church on Research to give us a better idea of what is planned and an opportunity to ask questions. I understand those using the buildings will enter off Barossa Valley Road or Veneto Way and they will be arriving and leaving at points throughout the day and not all at one time, which should minimize traffic concerns. They said the temple won't even be open on Sundays and Mondays.

At the open house I heard some questions about lighting and the height of the tower, but they said the lighting will be for safety, moderate in intensity, and in keeping with city ordinances, and because of the lot terrain, the steeple, common to most church buildings, will appear even shorter than it actually is.

Again, I am looking forward to having Powers Blvd. completed through Flying Horse and the adjacent lot on Flying Horse Club Drive developed and improved in a way that fits its surroundings and is in keeping with the non-residential character of Flying Horse Club drive with its Classic Homes headquarters, parking lots, hotel, restaurant, clubhouse, swimming pools, tennis courts, etc.

Thank you for your efforts to help move this project forward.

Brent Frost

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Randall Gardner <randall.angela1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 6:12 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** LDS Temple in Flying Horse, Record DEPN-25-0056

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Ms. Baxter,

I'm writing in support of the proposed temple and meeting house in Flying Horse for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. As a resident in the Flying Horse neighborhood I look forward to having a temple less than 5 minutes from my home. These are beautiful and reverent buildings used for peaceful worship. The building has a lot of thought and detail in its design and will add to the community. After seeing the proposed design at the open house in May, I understand that the building is single story, there will be little impact from noise, traffic will be minimal and distributed throughout the day, and the proposed lighting will be controlled and adjustable, having minimal impact on the neighborhood. Having the temple in our neighborhood will be an overall positive experience.

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Randy Gardner  
[randall.angela1@gmail.com](mailto:randall.angela1@gmail.com)

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** KathyHines <westhaven@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 1, 2025 9:15 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** New Temple Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Looking forward to our new neighbors at Batista Valley and Flying Horse Club Drive. Will be great to see the completion of this project.

Kathy Hines  
Resident of Siena at Flying Horse

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Holly Hoopes <hdechant@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 9:58 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Flying Horse Temple

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

I am greatly looking forward to the temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints being built in Flying Horse. The temple will bring great beauty to Flying Horse with the grounds being impeccably maintained and the structure itself bringing reverence and beauty.

As a member of both the Flying Horse community and the Church of Jesus Christ I am eagerly awaiting the time when I will be within walking distance of this amazing place of peace from the world. I have visited temples around the US and all are maintained with the utmost care and radiate beauty. All are designed specifically for the location and build to the highest standard.

There should be no major impact on traffic as those who come to worship do so throughout the day and not in large groups. The temple is always closed on Sundays and Mondays as well as other times throughout the year. The temple draws us closer to heaven and brings comfort in a world of chaos.

I welcome the building of this temple and know several people who purchased homes in the area in anticipation of this glorious building someday being built on this land. I know that only good can come from this addition to Flying Horse and the surrounding area.

Sincerely,  
Holly Hoopes

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Wyeth Hoopes <wlhoopes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 9:06 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs LDS Temple

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

Dear planning and zoning committee,

As a resident of Flying Horse, I would like to thank you for the informative open house regarding the proposed LDS temple near the Club in Flying Horse. I am excited to hear about how this project will improve our community. I know that some of my neighbors are worried about the impact of the temple on the community but I do not share those concerns anymore after the open house.

I know that I was personally excited to learn that a temple increases property values in the neighborhood it is built in. I have seen other temples of that church and the grounds are meticulously maintained and the buildings are so lovely. It will bring more splendor to Flying Horse. I know that our community has strict landscaping requirements and I am confident that the proposed temple will fit in wonderfully.

I have driven by other temples at night and they are so beautiful with the minimal light just illuminating the buildings. I lived in Oakland before and the Temple there was asked to keep their lights on at night due to its beauty.

I have seen pictures of the proposed building and I have no concerns that it will obscure views of the mountains. The majority of the building won't be any taller than the two story homes in the area. The steeple seems like it will blend in beautifully with the peaks of the mountains.

I have never seen traffic impacts around temples because most of the people going there filter in randomly throughout the day. I fear that the majority of the traffic issues in that part of Flying Horse will be from the proposed off ramps from Powers Blvd, not the temple. Also, Powers will produce much more noise and light pollution than a building where people go to find peace in the world.

As I close, please consider allowing a building of this caliber to be built in this area. It will only increase the prestige of the Flying Horse community. I would also like to reinforce the fact that I am excited for this opportunity to have a temple built there as it is on my running path and it will be a much better view than just an empty field full of tumble weeds.

Thank you for your consideration. I trust your expertise and judgment will realize the opportunity to improve the area with a building of this caliber. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful day!

V/R,

Lt Col (Dr.) Wyeth Hoopes  
2398 Merlot Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
480-296-3284

Sent from my iPhone

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** jeff@11johnsons.com  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 9:15 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Property at Barossa Valley and Flying Horse Club Drive

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Ms. Baxter,

I thought it would be appropriate to respond to the development proposal for the property located at Barossa Valley and Flying Horse Club Drive. I was able to attend the open house so I know there were many questions asked by Flying Horse homeowners . I felt there was wonderful information provided and shared during the open house relative the aesthetics of the building, how much additional traffic there would be, how views of the neighbors might be impacted, and how the exterior of the building would be lit. I appreciated the response that I received about how the traffic would be minimized throughout the day versus large numbers of congregants all coming at once. I also appreciated how the height of the building was being limited to not obscure the view of the nearby homeowners. I have seen other temple buildings that have been two or more stories in height which would be a big concern of mine. It appears, from my conversation at the open house, that the lighting around the temple is also controlled and only directed toward the building. Last, I have noticed and appreciated how well kept the grounds have been at other latter day saint buildings I have visited. I am grateful that there is not a large steel building with a metal roof being placed in the middle of our community. There are way to many of those types of buildings in neighboring areas already. The renderings that were shared at the open house looked very nice.

As long as the building is compliant with all code and ordinance requirements of the city, I have no concerns with the building being built in our community.

Warmly,  
Jeff Johnson  
13525 Random Ridge View  
(303) 718-3944

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Debbie Law <debbielaw54@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 4:17 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Temple in Colorado Springs

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

To Tamara Baxter and members of the Planning and Zoning Committee:

Our family is thrilled to have a temple for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints being built in Colorado Springs! There are so many things wrong and contentious in the world today. But having a temple in Colorado Springs is a beacon for Christian values that creates positive connections between our people and the community.

To members of our church, the temple is the most sacred place on earth. We consider it to be the house of the Lord. Everything done in the temple is uplifting and ennobling and provides opportunities to serve others. It is a place of reverence, faith, and great respect.

As a holy house, the temple brings peace to our lives and purpose to our souls. It helps us to prioritize our time on earth in terms of eternity. And that uplifts us and provides hope and healing. It also strengthens our marriages and families, and it builds community relationships.

With the building of a temple, great consideration is given to be good neighbors, and to minimize issues with traffic, lighting, noise, and views. We truly believe that the temple and its landscaping will be a beautiful asset to Colorado Springs and a blessing to the community.

Thank you so much for your help with this temple-building process,  
Debbie Law

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** John MacDonald <erskine11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 6:56 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Temple in Flying Horse

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

To whom it may concern,

My name is Matt MacDonald. My wife Lauren and I moved into the Turin community in July of 2024. We were able to build our dream home with Classic and move into the new development of Flying Horse. As part of our starting process, Classic made us aware of this plot of land and how it was owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They explained it would be used for a religious purpose. We appreciated the open house the city ran and the information given about minimal impacts to traffic, views, and pollution. In the meeting, it was nice to hear how well maintained temples are and how they are closed on Sunday and Monday. It was nice to understand how noise will not impact the neighborhood as temples are a quiet place. Lastly, we appreciated knowing that lighting will be controlled and directed only to the building and parking according to city code.

My wife and I want to thank the city for all the information and we are excited to welcome the temple to our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely  
Matt MacDonald

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Mitchell McCrary <wmitchellmccrary@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 10:47 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Church Temple in Flying Horse

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Tamara,

I live close by a site in Flying Horse that has a temple planned to be built. I have heard of some concern and opposition to this and want to provide my perspective as a homeowner in Flying Horse in close proximity to the site where the temple will be constructed.

The site is right next to the future Powers BLVD extension and will provide a very nice buffer to the noise and impact that a major street like Powers produces.

The church that is building the temple has numerous examples around the world of temple properties which are beautiful buildings, built in neighborhoods, using only the very best construction methods and materials, on grounds that are impeccably maintained, resulting in higher property values.

Temples have a history of being built, operated, and illuminated in compliance with local codes.

This temple, like all others in neighborhoods around the world, will be closed on Sunday and Mondays, and will be a quiet, reverent place with small numbers of people coming and going throughout the day Tuesday - Saturday.

Lighting will be controlled and directed only to the building and parking for safety and according to city code.

Thanks for considering my input in support of the temple as you consider the upcoming planning and approval decisions.

Sincerely,

Mitch and Shannon McCrary  
2230 Coyote Crest View (2 blocks from Temple Site)  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Michael McDowell <mcdllc.consulting@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 5:15 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Cc:** Lindsay McDowell  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs - LDS Temple - Flying Horse

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Tamara,

I have lived in the Flying Horse neighborhood for nearly 6 years and love the area. I recently became aware that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (or LDS church) plans to build a temple in Flying Horse. Because I am a member of the LDS church, I was excited to hear about it.

Having lived in multiple parts of the country, I have been around temples several times before - and have found them to be some of the most beautiful and well-kept lots (for landscaping, flowers, and trees). As you probably know, temples are closed on Sundays and Mondays (and other holidays too). The use of the temple is generally limited by daytime schedules - so traffic is rarely a concern (because people come and go throughout the day).

Our family actually moved here with the hope that a temple would someday be built here - because we enjoy living close to temples. Living so close to a temple, will be a blessing to us because we will not need to travel to Denver to worship. The temple is a reverent place - and it is unlikely to negatively impact the neighborhood from sound. I have seen that the temple lighting is generally focused on the spire - which directs our eyes heavenward. In most cases, the steeple is not very high (but your office would have the precise dimensions). For me, this is a beautiful thing.

Should you wish to ask me questions about my experiences with temples in residential neighborhoods, I would be happy to answer them.

I look forward to having a temple in Flying Horse someday soon.

Michael McDowell  
12737 Pensador Drive - Flying Horse  
720-951-0269

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** danielle neuffer <danielleneuffer@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 8:32 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Support for the LDS temple in Flying Horse

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Dear Ms. Baxter,

I am a resident of Flying Horse in the Village of Verona. I am also a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I want to express my support for the temple in my neighborhood.

Temples are beautiful, positive additions to their surrounding communities. A drive through the Four Lakes neighborhood in Centennial, Colorado where the Denver temple resides is proof. The grass, landscaping and building are always immaculately maintained. I encourage you to look at pictures of other temples around the United States and the world. There are majestic temples visible from major roads like the Washington DC temple or the San Diego temple. There are also smaller, lower-profile temples which are just as beautiful which are located within residential neighborhoods like the Denver temple and the Fort Collins temple. These temples add beauty and value to the communities in which they are situated. The Colorado Springs temple with its single-story elevation is designed to be a lower-profile temple.

Temples have low impact on traffic and noise to the surrounding community. The patrons who come and go are peaceful, reverent and respectful. Temples are closed Sundays and Mondays. The hours on Tuesdays through Saturdays usually fall between 7 am and 9 pm, often with early closure on Saturdays. Usually, patrons make appointments to visit temples, which limits traffic and attendance to numbers of people that can easily park in the adjacent parking lot, not overflowing into neighborhoods.

I am excited to have a temple in my neighborhood! I usually travel to the Denver temple twice per month. Having a temple so close will greatly simplify my ability to attend. Once the temple is built in our neighborhood, I plan to serve as a volunteer there.

I am confident that a temple in Colorado Springs in the Flying Horse neighborhood will have a positive impact on our community! Thank you for taking the time to consider my input.

Danielle Neuffer

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Marc Neuffer <mcneuffer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 11:03 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** LDS temple in Flying Horse

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

Good afternoon Ms Baxter,

I live on Turnbull Dr in Flying Horse and am writing in support of the LDS temple being built in my neighborhood.

I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and grew up in the Washington D.C. area. The temple there was an iconic landmark of the city because of its beauty. The grounds were immaculate with some of the prettiest gardens in the area. People from all over the city would visit to walk the grounds and admire the architecture.

The temple in Flying Horse will be significantly smaller, but just as beautiful. It will be a destination for Flying Horse residents to walk to and appreciate gardens and architecture. Since there are never any scheduled large meetings in the temple, traffic will be minimal as people come and go after different times throughout the day. Since the temple is a place of reverent worship, those attending will be quiet so noise levels will be minimum. The temple is always closed on Sundays so it will not create more traffic or disrupt the Sunday golf tournaments at the Flying Horse Club. I think the building will be the perfect fit for Flying Horse's well manicured community. I also appreciate that having a temple in Flying Horse will save me time from having to drive to Denver to worship in the temple there. Thank you for your time in reading my email.

Best Regards,

Marc Neuffer

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Ray Perez <rayperez2744@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 5:52 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Cc:** Ames  
**Subject:** Support for the Colorado Springs Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear City of Colorado Springs Planning Department,

We are writing to express our sincere and wholehearted support for the proposed Colorado Springs Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We live at 12589 Chianti Court, just east of the proposed site in the Flying Horse neighborhood, and we have lived and raised our family in this beautiful city that we love deeply.

Colorado Springs is more than just our home—it's a place where families grow strong, where neighbors look out for one another, and where values of community, service, and faith are cherished. We believe the proposed temple aligns perfectly with those values and will be a quiet, uplifting, and beautiful addition to our area.

As weekly Temple Ordinance Workers, we have the privilege of serving in the temple, where sacred ordinances are performed that strengthen individuals, marriages, and families. These ordinances are deeply meaningful to us and to many others throughout the region. Having a temple here in our own city will be a tremendous blessing—not only to us, but to thousands of faithful members who currently must travel to Denver to participate in these sacred services.

We are grateful to the Planning Department for hosting the recent open house and for providing clear, helpful information about the minimal impact this project will have on the surrounding community. A few key points we appreciated and would like to reinforce:

- Traffic will not be an issue, as temple attendance is steady and spread throughout the day—there are no large gatherings or peak-hour impacts.
- The temple is closed on Sundays and Mondays, further minimizing activity during high-traffic times.
- Lighting will be carefully managed—directed only at the building and parking areas for safety, and fully compliant with city code to reduce light pollution.
- The steeple, while tall, is modest in proportion and architecturally meaningful. It draws the eye upward—a symbol of worship and reverence.
- Noise is not a concern, as temples are reverent spaces. They are not used for social events or loud gatherings.

We also want to note how beautifully temples are maintained. The landscaping, architecture, and overall care put into these sacred spaces reflect deep respect for the surrounding community. This will not be just another building—it will be a peaceful landmark that invites calm and contemplation.

We love Colorado Springs and are committed to helping it grow in ways that preserve its beauty, values, and spirit. We respectfully ask for your support and approval of this project and thank you for your careful consideration of this important matter.

Warm regards,  
Ray and Amery Perez  
12589 Chianti Court  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Dan Perrington <danrpdmd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 10:38 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Temple endorsement

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the construction of the new temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Flying Horse neighborhood of Colorado Springs.

First, I want to extend sincere thanks for the open house events and the transparency shown throughout the planning process. The information shared regarding traffic, lighting, and overall impact on the neighborhood was both helpful and reassuring. It's clear that careful thought and consideration have gone into every detail, with respect for the surrounding community as a priority.

Latter-day Saint temples are among the most beautiful and meticulously maintained buildings anywhere. Their architecture is peaceful and timeless, and they are kept in pristine condition year-round. The temple will no doubt be a landmark of inspiration and beauty in our city, as it is in every location where one has been built.

It is also important to note that temples are not open on Sundays or Mondays, and even when in use, they do not generate crowds in the way other community structures might. Visitors come and go quietly throughout the day, ensuring that traffic remains light and spread out. Concerns about congestion or noise are unfounded given the peaceful, reverent nature of temple activity.

The lighting plan has also been thoughtfully prepared to comply with city regulations, with illumination directed only toward the building and parking area for safety. There will be no intrusive light pollution. As for the steeple, though tall, it is graceful and

proportionally modest—designed not to dominate the skyline, but to uplift the spirit and draw the eye heavenward.

For local members of the Church, this temple represents a deeply meaningful blessing. Until now, we have had to make the long drive to Denver to attend the temple—a significant sacrifice of time for many families. Having a temple in Colorado Springs will make it more accessible and allow for more frequent worship, service, and spiritual renewal. This is a blessing that cannot be overstated.

I hope this message conveys the excitement, gratitude, and support that many of us in the community feel. The temple will not only be a place of worship for Church members—it will be a quiet, dignified, and beautiful addition to the Flying Horse neighborhood and to Colorado Springs as a whole.

With appreciation and respect,

Dan Perrington

Flying Horse Resident

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Chris Pyrah <cns9554@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 9:30 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Temple

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the development plan for the Colorado Springs temple and the flying horse community. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the impact that I believe this will have on the flying horse community and Colorado Springs in general.

I have been a lifelong member of the church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints And have lived in Colorado Springs for the last five years. I have attended dozens of temples that the church has built throughout the United States and know for sure of the great positive impact that have, not only the membership of the church, but also the surrounding community. There is a notable peace and reverence that exists inside the temple, and the same exists outside the temple on the grounds.

These buildings and the adjoining landscaping is immaculately kept and provides an added value to the surrounding landscape.

The impact of traffic is minimal, as on most days patrons to the temple are spread out throughout the day, and the temple is closed on Sunday and Monday's.

The temples have minimal light pollution as lights are focused directly to the temple and in the parking lot for safety and comply with local codes.

I have attended the Denver Colorado temple many times and can assure that the temple there is very well blended into the neighborhood of the community. It will also be a great blessing to have a temple just a few minutes away to attend instead of needing to travel to Denver.

Thank you for your time and consideration for this project.

Chris Pyrah  
1945 Clayhouse Drive  
Colorado Springs.

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Greg Raymond <raymond.greg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:47 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Support for Flying Horse Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Planning Commission-

As a 12-year Flying Horse resident I am conveying my strong support for the construction of the Flying Horse temple. When I purchased our home from Classic Homes in 2013 the sales team was very transparent about the expectation and zoning for a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint temple and meeting house. Since moving into the neighborhood both members of the faith and non-members have been anticipating this development and the anticipate value it brings to the aesthetic of the development and the economic impact.

I have observed temples throughout the world and I am always awestruck at how they capture the essence of the geography and community. Their beauty, landscaping and the serenity and calmness they instill in their environment is undeniable. I am confident this will be the case in Flying Horse. This same serenity is honored by the members of the faith both inside and outside of the temple as there are not large crowds that arrive at the same time. Additionally, the facility is not open on Sundays and Mondays.

Lastly, as a member of the faith that has had to travel to Denver to attend the temple there I can attest to the economic impact of having a temple in our community. Each time we attend the temple in south Denver, without fail, we dine and shop in the surrounding area. As the Flying Horse temple will be a draw for members throughout southern Colorado, I project economic impact that will benefit the surrounding business community.

Thank you for your ongoing consideration of what will be a crown jewel in the Colorado Springs community.

Respectfully,

Greg Raymond

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Holly Rust <holls22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 10:30 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Temple

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

To Whom it May Concern:

We are so happy to hear that a temple will be built in Flying Horse. The temple grounds are beautiful and bring peace and class to the area!

It will be a wonderful addition to the area!

Holly Rust  
385-500-7498  
12675 Abert Way

Sent from my iPhone

May 31, 2025

TO: Tamara Baxter

RE: Colorado Springs Colorado Temple

Below, please find my input and questions regarding the proposed Mormon Temple at Barossa Valley Road and Flying Horse Club Drive.

I highly value the religious and civil freedoms we enjoy in the United States. With this in mind, I want to both comment on and pose questions regarding the proposed Mormon Temple in Colorado Springs.

## **Temple:**

- A Mormon Temple does not function as a church. The primary function of a Mormon Temple is to serve as an event location for LDS Church members. Some of those events include conferences, training and education for church members, blessing weddings, etc.
- A Temple is also an *international tourist destination*. The grand opening of a Temple can attract *hundreds of thousands of visitors*. Once the Temple is blessed and closed to the public, there is still a steady stream of visitors throughout the year. While the Temple leadership requests visitors make appointments, it is not required.
- A Temple is open Tuesday through Saturday, with Saturday usually their busiest day for visitors.
- Many Temple locations have retail facilities, such as a bookstore/refreshments and a wedding store.

## **Questions:**

1. Will this Temple or the additional structure house any retail items?
2. How long will the open house last for this Temple?
3. With 400 parking spaces, how many LDS members and tourists are expected to visit the Temple annually?
4. What are the days and hours of operation?

5. Will the additional 15,000 sf structure be a church?

## **Location:**

- Flying Horse is a residential neighborhood with limited access via major roadways.
- The proposed site is located in the neighborhood and is inaccessible via any major roadway. *Visitors will need to drive through the Flying Horse neighborhood to access the Temple entrances.*

## **Questions:**

1. Will the LDS Church and more specifically, the Colorado Springs Mormon Temple, require wider roads inside Flying Horse to accommodate traffic?
2. Will the LDS Church petition the State of Colorado for an exit once the Powers Blvd extension is scheduled?
3. Will the City of Colorado Springs supply Residential Parking Signs for the neighborhood streets near the Temple?

## **Temple Structure and Design:**

- The Temple is designed as a 45,000 square foot structure with an additional on-site building of 15,000 square feet.
- The Temple is designed to be one story with a large spire.
- The exterior architecture appears to be smooth, light colored stone or marble. This is not consistent with the Flying Horse HOA required building materials.

## **Questions:**

1. Will the Temple be lit at night? There is a lot of concern over light pollution, even with lights that point downward.
2. If the smaller structure is a church, when are services held?
3. If the smaller structure is not a church, what is its function?
4. Is the LDS Church leadership willing to re-design the exterior of the buildings to be consistent with the neighborhood HOA?
5. What is the actual height of the spire atop the Temple?
6. Will the spire interfere with the U S Air Force Academy flying training program? Has the LDS Church attained permission from the U S Air Force regarding the proposed spire? It is important to have this issue resolved before any construction is

approved. A construction halt would not be appreciated while this is sorted out, so a proactive approach is advisable.

### Taxes:

- *Since the Temple will operate under both a federal and state tax exempt status, there will be no tax revenue generated by the Temple.*
- Due to the increased use of the Flying Horse residential streets, Highway 83, Voyager and Northgate, road repairs will be necessary on a more frequent basis.

### Questions:

1. Without tax revenue, how will the Mormon Temple contribute financially to Colorado Springs?
2. Will local residents face tax increases to cover the road repairs that will be necessary?

Overall, I am unconvinced that a Mormon Temple is necessary in the Flying Horse neighborhood. If this was my church denomination, I would be opposed to such a large structure and suggest relocating the project. ***The issues of and related to increased traffic, noise, light pollution, large numbers of tourists and their vehicles are just too big to overlook.***

I understand the LDS Church has owned this land for years, attempting to work out a plan for eventual construction. Their maintenance of this land has been disappointing during the 13 years I have lived in Flying Horse. The parcel was allowed to grow large weeds, which went to seed and became tumbleweeds each fall and winter. If the current maintenance is any indicator as to how the Temple grounds will be kept, I am genuinely concerned.

Finally, proposing such a large scale project on the heels of The Ford Amphitheater controversy seems unwise. The local impact of that decision is still being felt by the neighborhoods surrounding the amphitheater. Do the residents of Flying Horse and the surrounding neighborhoods really need a Mormon Temple in their midst? *And does the LDS Church need this Temple, built on this particular parcel when there are three additional completed or scheduled Temples in the state of Colorado?*

Respectfully,

Cynthia Schwindt

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Ryan Smith <selectcoverage@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 8:36 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Tamara-

Thank you for taking time to read my letter of encouragement for a temple to be built for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Flying Horse Community. I am excited to share with you some of my thoughts and feelings about a temple being built in the community I live in.

Our family has lived in the Flying Horse community for the past 10 years. All of our kids have attended DCC. In fact, our last child just graduated this year. It's a great community, and we have enjoyed watching the growth take place.

Any time there is growth, there is always change. I remember the change that took place in my hometown of San Diego, California when I was a young adult. There was a temple built along the I-5 freeway in La Jolla. If you have ever traveled along the freeway during the day or even at night, it is hard to miss the San Diego Temple. It is absolutely stunning. Many people who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints enjoy stopping by each day to walk the grounds because it is such a beautiful place. It is a very welcoming site and a place for everyone to visit.

At one point in my career, I worked in the Los Angeles area. East of the 405 freeway on Santa Monica Blvd is the Los Angeles temple. It has been there for years. It is one of the most impressive places in all of Los Angeles. Along that stretch of Santa Monica Blvd where the temple sits, there are businesses, people, and places that are not very appealing. As I have driven by the Los Angeles temple many times, I have always been so impressed with how well maintained and inviting the property is. People, both church members and those who are not, find the temple grounds and visitor's center such a special place.

When I think of the future of the Colorado Springs temple, I can only imagine how amazing the temple and the surrounding area will be for our community, especially in Flying Horse. Our community has such a great look and feel to it. The Colorado Springs temple will only add to our community and its beauty.

There are some practical things I think are important to consider for those who may have some concerns:

- The temple is a reverent place. Therefore, there aren't sound issues for people to be concerned about.
- A temple is maintained all year round. The grounds and surrounding areas are kept clean and the landscaping is manicured to levels I only wish I could have at my house.
- There is security at the temple to help protect it and maintain its appearance.
- The temple is open five days a week Tuesday through Saturday.
- There are different times throughout each day that people come and go. As a result, there aren't surges of heavy traffic at certain times through the day which makes it nice for the community.
- The temple is operated by members of the church who volunteer their time. Many volunteers travel long distances to come to the temple. All of those volunteers will need gas and food at some point in time. With the growth in Flying Horse with gas stations, restaurants, King Soopers, and other businesses, there will definitely be a positive economic impact in our community with having the temple here.

- The temple will add beauty and be a place people will see as a great landmark, especially when Powers Road eventually comes through.
- The lights of the temple are affixed on the temple and are not a nuisance.
- The temple is a reminder of all that is good in such a crazy world.

There are so many positives when it comes to a temple. I have complete confidence that the Colorado Springs temple will only add to our community. Thanks again for the Open House my wife, daughter, and son-in-law were able to attend. I'm confident as the community comes together, they will see the good that the Colorado Springs temple will provide.

Respectfully-  
Ryan Smith  
Flying Horse community neighbor

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Matt Steuer <mattsteuer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 7:56 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Support for proposed temple construction.

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Dear Planning and Zoning Committee,

My name is Matthew Steuer, and I'm writing as a resident and member of the community to express my strong support for the proposed temple in Colorado Springs.

I want to begin by thanking you for the recent open house and the thoughtful information shared regarding the project. It was helpful to learn about the measures being taken to minimize traffic, maintain peaceful surroundings, and ensure that lighting and design are all in harmony with city code and the surrounding neighborhood.

Temples are truly special places for us. They are beautifully designed, immaculately maintained, and add a sense of peace and reverence to any area in which they're located. The fact that the temple will be closed on Sundays and Mondays, and that activity occurs quietly throughout the day, means that traffic and noise will be minimal. I'm confident it will be a quiet and respectful presence in the neighborhood.

The steeple, though tall, is thoughtfully designed and proportional to the building—it's an inspiring architectural element that lifts our gaze heavenward. The care taken in the design and lighting plans reassures me that the temple will be a tasteful and welcome addition to our city.

Personally, I feel deeply grateful for the opportunity to have a temple closer to home and in my neighborhood of Flying Horse. Traveling to Denver can be difficult, especially for families or those with limited mobility. Having a temple here in Colorado Springs would be a great blessing for many of us.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and for your continued efforts to make Colorado Springs a place where all faiths can worship and gather in peace.

Warm regards,  
**Dr. Matthew Steuer**

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Meg Stoddard <megstodd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 9:33 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Support of the LDS Temple in Flying Horse

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Tamara-

I feel to email you with reasons of my support of the LDS Temple being built in Flying Horse. I understand that there has been some pushback with regards to the development. As a member of the Flying Horse community, I want to list some reasons that may help those in opposition to the project reach a better understanding of the impact the Temple will have on the community at large.

First, I feel to note that I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We just recently purchased a home in the Flying Horse neighborhood of Turin last year and were thrilled with the announcement that a Temple would be built so close! As of right now, my husband and I have to load up our kids, drive to Denver, and take turns watching the kids in the car in order to attend the Temple. What a wonderful privilege it will be to have one so close.

With regards to lighting, pollution, and traffic- the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints makes terrific neighbors. The Temple grounds will be meticulously well-kept and beautiful. In terms of lighting, all city code regulations will be followed with exactness. In terms of traffic, the Temple will always be closed completely on Sundays and Mondays as well as all major holidays and other scheduled times for cleanings throughout the year. When the Temple is open, there will be virtually no noise heard as it is a reverent place, and patrons will only slowly trickle in and out throughout the day.

I have attached a link to an article describing the positive impact Temples tend to have on the communities they are built in. I hope you take the time to read through it and consider how those benefits could apply to the situation here in Colorado Springs.

While it's easy for me to see the benefits the Temple will provide to the community, I am trying to empathize with those in opposition. While I may not know or understand all of their reasons, I do hope the points made in this letter could help them understand and empathize from my point of view regarding the situation.

Temple attendance and worship is separate from our typical Sunday church attendance. It is something we have to schedule ourselves as our circumstances permit. Attending the Temple brings a sacredness to my life that I have yet to find in any other way. For those of my faith, Temple worship is an integral part of our spirituality.

Please feel free to email back with questions, concerns, etc.

Thank you so much for your time, work, and consideration!

- Meg Thueson

2425 Parma Court  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

<https://cowboystatedaily.com/2023/10/06/lds-temples-may-be-opposed-for-many-reasons-but-they-boost-property-values/>

## Baxter, Tamara

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**From:** Rob & Paula Swenson <sealed4ever@q.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 6:03 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Ms. Baxter,

Thank you for the open house and providing information about the Colorado Springs Temple and the **minimal impacts** to traffic, views, and light pollution it will have.

Temples are beautiful and always well maintained and manicured. Have you seen the Denver Colorado Temple? It is beautiful and peaceful, and I know the Colorado Springs Temple will be just as if not even more beautiful and peaceful.

The Temple is closed on Sundays and Mondays. They are reverent places and noise will not impact the neighborhood, unlike the Ford Amphitheater. The lighting will be controlled and directed only to the building and parking for safety and according to city code, unlike the large, red classic sign which is an eyesore.

A beautiful Temple will only increase the value of our homes, unlike apartment homes which is what Classic Homes was hoping to build there.

Finally, what a blessing it will be to not have to travel to Denver every week.

It is my prayer that we will soon be able to pull the permits and start breaking ground.

Thank you again for your time

Paula J. Swenson

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Tamara Thompson <tamlyn77@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 9:45 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Flying Horse

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Hello Ms. Baxter,

We wanted to write an email in support of a temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints being built in Flying Horse. We are Tamara and Jeff Thompson, and we have lived in Flying Horse and raised our family here for the past 13 years off of Roller Coaster and Northgate. We love this neighborhood and have seen many changes during that time, with new commercial buildings, stores, restaurants, and housing. The area has grown tremendously and we are so excited about having a temple in our neighborhood.

We currently attend the temple in Denver, and we want to share our experience at that temple, which exemplifies the characteristics of the temples of our Church. The Denver temple is in a beautiful neighborhood of houses and green space, and the grounds of the temple are absolutely beautiful and meticulously maintained. We have attended sessions at the Denver temple dozens and dozens of times, and the feeling both outside and inside of the temple has never been anything other than peaceful and reverent. Noise would not be an issue in our neighborhood either, and the beauty and cleanliness of the building and grounds would be an asset to the area. Sessions are held throughout the day, Tuesday through Saturday, so we have never experienced heavy traffic at the temple as attendance is spread throughout the day and week. It would be such a blessing to be able to attend the temple in our neighborhood, as it would be much safer for us to be able to avoid weather issues and high speed traffic.

We know that everything about temples is carefully considered, because we consider temples to be sacred buildings. The neighborhood will be more peaceful, beautiful, and clean as a result of the temple. We appreciate your time and consideration with this email.

Sincerely,

Jeff and Tamara Thompson  
Cinnabar Rd  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Sent from my iPad

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Elden Warner <eldenwarner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:55 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Temple in Flying Horse

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

Good Morning,

I am a resident in Flying Horse and wanted to email you with my excitement for the temple construction. My family just recently returned from a vacation in Hawaii where we went to tour the grounds of the Laie temple there. It will be amazing to have something similarly beautiful in my neighborhood that I will be able to walk to!

While completed in 1919, the Laie temple was wonderfully maintained and continues to be a pillar of beauty and faith in its community, and I am grateful to have one in Colorado Springs.

Sincerely,

D. Elden Warner

Flying Horse Resident

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Gretchen Warner <gretchwarner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 5:11 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** LDS Temple

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

Hi, I wanted to email regarding some concerns that I have heard being voiced regarding the temple for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints planned in Flying Horse. I personally am excited about its location and being built in my neighborhood.

I am not concerned at all regarding its location or what it will do to the neighborhood. I have seen many temples all over the US and outside of the US (Several in Europe). In fact we just visited one last week on Oahu when visiting the Polynesian Cultural Center with my children and in-laws. They are all meticulously landscaped and well kept. Very beautiful buildings. I think it will add to the beauty of our neighborhood and add value.

I think the dome thing covering the courts at the Flying Horse Club is more of an eyesore than a beautiful building would be. Some of the houses on the hill of the gated area of FH aren't that pretty looking either.

LDS temples are very quiet and peaceful places. They don't have party's or loud music projecting from it weekly like FORD AMPATHEATER! It's not something that is going to bring rifraff to the area. It's a church. It's a place where people go to worship. It is not open all week. Why is it being so looked down upon? It's better the temple than a gas station, another weed shop, or some shopping center....

I would ask that you please let this building be built! I am very excited to see it and have it close by.

Respectfully,  
Gretchen Warner  
228-235-5287

Sent from my iPad

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Christa Wells <christawells@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 6:46 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Flying Horse Temple

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Hello Tamara,

My name is Christa Wells and I live on Mission Meadow Drive, which will be the entrance street for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Colorado Springs Temple. My address is 12778 Mission Meadow Dr. There's one house between my home and the Temple. I attended the community meeting on May 15 and wanted to speak to you, but just missed you that night. It was a fantastic meeting. We asked lots of questions regarding traffic, roof & steeple height, lighting, etc. The two architects, civil, engineer and woman overseeing permits were all exceptionally helpful.

We are eager to know more details about the meeting house as our backyard and patio will look directly upon that building. Ultimately, my purpose and sending this messages to express support for these beautiful, worshipful, and family-oriented buildings in our neighborhood. Thank you for your work on behalf of this project. By the way, James McMurray is our brother-in-law. He spoke highly of you.

Sincerely,  
Christa Wells

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Steven Wells <stevencwellspe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 7:03 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Temple for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Ms. Baxter,

I wanted to write an express appreciation for the recent open house that was held discussing the proposed temple for the church of Jesus Christ latter-day Saints in the flying horse community. It was helpful and provided some valuable information.

I live on Mission Meadow Drive in the Flying Horse community, about one house away from the temple lot. I am excited for this temple to be built in Colorado Springs.

In my experience, all of the LDS temples are beautiful, extremely well maintained, and significantly add to any environment that they are placed.

As you know, they are only open Tuesday through Saturday, and the individuals attending them attend for worship purposes. As such, they behave and act in a very reverent manner.

This will be a beautiful addition to the neighborhood, a beacon of hope, and serve as a buffer to the future planned Powers Highway planned.

I am in complete support of approving this building. I appreciate that the church, the architects, and the engineers have carefully taken into account the city ordinances, and the character of the building when designing the proposed temple.

As a resident who will see this building daily from my home, I support its approval and construction. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have specific questions or would like to discuss further.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steven Wells  
12778 Mission Meadow Drive

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** brad.whittle@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 6:59 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Thank you for the open house on the LDS Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Hi Tamara,

I live at 2360 Rainbows End Pt in Flying Horse and want to thank you for the opportunity to attend the open house regarding the construction of the LDS temple. I think the temple will be a beautiful addition to the Flying Horse community and be a source of pride for Colorado Springs and El Paso County.

With the number of high density developments completed and under construction in and around North Colorado Springs, it will be wonderful to have a beautiful church building with ample grounds to walk around. I frequently walk my dog across the open lot now and a church building will be much quieter and have less traffic than apartment complex or business district.

One of the unique aspects of an LDS temple is the trickle of traffic flow that accompanies the use of the building. It's closed on Sunday's and Monday's. Tuesday through Saturday, members come at various times throughout the day. There is not a single meeting where majority of members enter and depart.

LDS temples are known for being peaceful, quiet locations allowing anyone to walk the grounds and enjoy both the inspiring building and meticulously maintained landscaping. You can Google LDS temples to see examples throughout the world. The Colorado Springs temple will have a small spire and fit within the Flying Horse community look and feel.

Thank you for taking time to read this email in support of the temple. It will be a project (as I mentioned above) that will not only be a benefit to the Flying Horse community but all of Colorado Springs.

Best regards,

Brad Whittle

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** mdwdds@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 5:44 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** LDS Temple

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I am very excited to have a temple in our neighborhood. The grounds are always beautiful. It will provide a barrier to hideous Powers Blvd. and a noise break. Real estate values will go up. I can't believe there would be any push back to having this temple there. Multi unit housing or any other idea would be much much worse. This is a no brainer.

13498 York creek grove

Flying Horse

Michael Wonnacott

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Nathan Wood <nawood73@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 5:27 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Support for Colorado Springs LDS Temple Project

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Dear Ms. Baxter,

My name is Nathan Wood, and I live at 2384 Cinnabar Rd., Colorado Springs, Colorado. I have been a resident of Colorado Springs for the past six years.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I understand how busy you must be, and I sincerely appreciate your efforts.

I am writing to express my gratitude for hosting the open house regarding the future building plans for the LDS temple set for construction on the vacant lot at the intersection of Flying Horse Club Drive and Veneto Way.

Additionally, I would like to voice my support for this project. LDS temples are beautiful structures that bring a sense of peace and enhance the surrounding area. These houses of worship are built with minimal impact on concerns typically associated with projects of this size. For instance, the lighting is designed to complement the neighborhood, minimizing light pollution while focusing on the building and parking lots for safety and aesthetic purposes. Traffic impact is also generally minimal, as temple schedules involve smaller meetings throughout the day rather than large, simultaneous gatherings. Furthermore, since the temple will be closed on Sundays and Mondays, traffic will be nonexistent on those days.

LDS temples are also beautifully landscaped and impeccably maintained both inside and out. Having lived in this neighborhood for some time, I have personally observed and experienced the challenges of maintaining the empty field. The new temple will be an asset to the community, providing a serene space where both church members and residents can enjoy the beauty of flowers, grass, and trees.

While I understand that some neighbors may have concerns about the height of the temple's steeple, the exterior renderings released by the Church indicate that it will enhance the beauty of the area, drawing the viewer's gaze upward in a peaceful and inspiring way.

My wife and children and I regularly drive 45 minutes to an hour to visit the Denver Colorado Temple. Having a temple close to home, within the Colorado Springs community, will be a tremendous blessing to our family and will bring me peace of mind, knowing that my children—ranging in age from 14 to 22—will no longer have to drive long distances through the gap to reach a temple.

I have visited, and lived in, many communities with LDS temples, and in my experience, these temples become cherished neighbors to those who live nearby, pass by, or visit—whether members of the LDS

Church or not. I am confident that the Colorado Springs Temple will be a similarly valuable addition to our community.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Nathan Wood

[nawood73@gmail.com](mailto:nawood73@gmail.com)

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Jordan Wright <jordanmwright8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 8:12 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** LDS Temple Planning opinion

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Hello!

I wanted to email you to voice my opinion on the building of the LDS temple in Flying Horse. I fully support the building of such a beautiful building, as I have seen the rendering of the building. I believe it will add to property value and add to the beauty and wholesome feel of our neighborhood.

Jordan Wright  
(719)367-4890

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Matthew Wright <matthew.w210@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 7:33 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Temple

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

Good evening,

My name is Matthew Wright. I am a Major in the United States Air Force and will be working at the Air Force Academy starting this July. I will be renting a home in the Flying Horse community for the next 2-6 years (possibly longer). I recently heard there were some concerns about the building of a temple by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints within the community. As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and future member of the community, I would like to express my thoughts on the matter within the public square.

I have lived all over this country, from the Midwest, to the Mountain West to the deep South. After being assigned to a new location one of the first things our family does is look where the closest temple is located. Within our religion, serving in the temple, is a sacred blessing and privilege. It is a place where many go to receive increased direction and guidance from God and escape the chaos of the world. We have been blessed to live close to some temples and also been less fortunate with the temple being many hours away. I would like to reassure those who are uneasy with the construction of this building that it will not only be a beautiful piece of architecture but a place of peace and tranquility.

We recently participated in the opening of the Tallahassee temple and were again reminded of the heavenly effect it can have on an area and community. From the tastefully lit edifices to the well maintained flower beds, it can only work to enhance its surroundings. The concern for an increase in traffic is noted but should be minimal, as attendance is dispersed into multiple sessions throughout the day. Those who attend the temple are usually well-mannered, tend to obey traffic laws and strive to follow the peaceful teachings of Christ. Those who serve as workers in the temple are often elderly or retired and are pillars in the community who enjoy spending their day serving their God. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints believes in following the laws of the land and the zoning, parking and lighting are always according to city code.

I sincerely believe that the temple is a House of God and it will immensely bless not only the members of the church in the surrounding area but all those in the Flying Horse community and Colorado Springs. Please allow us to continue to build our sacred place of worship, I promise the people of this great community will embrace it. Thank you for your time.

## **Baxter, Tamara**

---

**From:** Steve Zenger <szenger13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 4:44 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Temple Site in Flying Hoarse

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Tamera,

Hello my name is Steve Zenger and my wife and I live in The Flying Horse Phase one area and are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints where the Temple site is. I am concerned with what Classic homes wants to buy back this property to put apartments on it.. That would truly be a terrible way to represent beautiful homes and help us lose value.

There is much beauty in a Latter day Saint Temple because it represents our Savior Jesus Christ and it is where we make covenants with our Father in Heaven that prepare us for life in this world and also in the Eternal World. It will bring peace to those who live near the Temple and perhaps give them an eternal perspective in this world that would benefit those who are close by. I personally have lived near many Temples in my life and know peace abides. The Portland Oregon Temple, Idaho Falls Idaho Temple, The Washington D.C. Temple. Rexburg Idaho Temple and many others and I know what a safe, clean Holy house of God would do for our area.

Thank you for letting me express my feelings of what a Temple has done for my family and know what it can do for those of us who live here in Colorado Springs.

Steve and Jaynelen Zenger  
2343 Cinnabar Rd.  
Colorado Springs CO 80921

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Terry Fleege <terry.j.fleege@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 10, 2025 10:39 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Temple

[You don't often get email from terry.j.fleege@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

Good morning Tamara, I'm sure you are getting a lot of complaints regarding the Temple to possibly be built in Flying Horse. In my opinion the church itself is fine but a 4 story steeple is ridiculous. We all bought or built here because of the view of the mountains. What idiot would approve of this! It affects hundreds of homes. Like most projects it's already approved and your letter wanting responses is a waste of time. Buy in case it's not I vote no to the steeple.

Terry Fleege  
8476246658  
A Flying Horse resident

Sent from my iPad

## Baxter, Tamara

---

**From:** Dave Phillips <dapmvp@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 5:18 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** DEPN -15-0056

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Tamara:

I live in the Siena East Village of Flying Horse and look directly at the site for the Mormon temple. Take this email as my input to the project in precedence over previous input.

This is a huge building in a residential area and the city needs to require measures that soften the impact of the temple. If the Mormon leadership would seek to have this property have a park-like feel it would be really appreciated by the neighbors.

1. There needs to be good sized berms around the outside edge of the parking lot so that a car on an adjacent road does not see the parking lot.
2. Evergreen trees should be placed around the outside ring of the property to provide year-around screening of the property. The drawings showed deciduous trees on the outer ring which means there would be no screening during many months of the year when the leaves are off the trees. The drawings showed trees in the middle of the parking lot to break up the lot. That is a good thing so make sure these trees are required. The trunk of those trees should be at least 2 ½ inches in diameter when planted.
3. The temple should not have lights. Having lights on at night on a huge building this size in the middle of a residential neighborhood is not appropriate. I was told by a Mormon leader that they do not keep the lights on at night if the city requires that. Best to have no lights installed when built to guarantee that happens.

Dave Phillips  
13084 Cake Bread Hts, Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
719-337-1028

4.

## **Baxter, Tamara**

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**From:** Cindy Schwindt <cjsbydesign@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 5:58 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs Temple

[You don't often get email from cjsbydesign@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

I am writing to formally appeal the development of the Colorado Springs Mormon Temple. After careful study of the planned structures and their subsequent locations, I cannot agree with a decision that favors this proposed development.

My appeal is based on the following issues that have not been properly discussed or addressed within the Flying Horse Community.

1. Traffic in the FH Community will be affected by the visitors and attendees at Temple Events. All entrances to the temple will be off of Veneto Way, which is a small, two lane residential street. These entrances are only accessible from residential streets, which is both disruptive and potentially dangerous to residents and pedestrians in FH.
2. Construction that is scheduled to last 30-40 months inside a residential neighborhood is going to be loud, messy and disruptive to local traffic and residents. Large vehicles and heavy equipment driving to and from the proposed development will pose a nuisance and a danger to residents.
3. Local roads will be damaged beyond normal neighborhood wear and tear. Who will repair or replace these roads? Due to a religious exemption, the Mormon Leadership will not be contributing to our damaged roads.
4. Overall, traffic in the area will increase due to Temple visitors and attendees. All major roadways surrounding FH will see much larger volumes of traffic, as well as small internal, neighborhood roads. This will lead to more congestion, accidents and damage to roadways.
5. Overall, I have concluded that building a Temple INSIDE a residential neighborhood is not great for the community as a whole. Again, I am formally appealing the Colorado Springs Mormon Temple development inside Flying Horse.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Schwindt  
14021 Penfold Drive

## Baxter, Tamara

---

**From:** Jim Schwindt <jimschwindt@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 5:51 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Temple project in Flying Horse

You don't often get email from jimschwindt@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Ms. Baxter,

I am appealing the planned development in Flying horse for many serious conditions affecting my Village and the entire community of Flying Horse.

It seems that our community gets to endure all of the bad affects of this planned project with no actual value to our neighborhood.

Please consider the following issues which I deem as critical to my Village:

1. Greatly increased traffic on a neighborhood street system. The Temple is a Tourist destination with 10s of thousands of visitors expected. Just review past Temple opening statistics, these are hard facts.
2. A ridiculously long build duration with long term negative affects from noise, traffic, road and sidewalk damage from heavy equipment. And a danger to pedestrians in the area.
3. There will also be annoying light pollution for the entire area at night which ruins the intent in Flying horse Villages. We don't even have street lights in a lot of areas.
4. The building design is entirely incompatible with the Tuscan theme in Flying Horse. It is an eye sore for our community.
5. The added other building increase the noise and traffic and again do not meet current HOA design intent.
6. What advantages does the Temple get for taxes and HOA fees. Why should our Villages fund the needs of this Temple while they get discounts for non-profit status?
7. What percentage of attendees are actually members of the Temple. Why does it need to be in our backyard?
8. There will be 7 day per week activities in the facility, more than Discovery Canyon School.
9. Why is the entrance not on the Main Flying Horse drive? There are multiple entrances from the Encore and Turin neighborhood areas.
10. There will most likely be need for overflow parking affecting again the small Villages of Encore and Turin.

All in all, there appears to be no added value to Flying Horse and we must endure so many significant troubles for an unsightly tourist monstrosity.

Yes, we are emotional about this mistaken plan for our community. This was not the intent of the Zone in our area.

When is the planned City council review of the merits of this project. It appears to be ramrodded into our lives without due process.

Please include my comments in the files for this project. I totally reject the concept and plan for the proposed Temple.

James Schwindt  
Encore resident  
7192007781

## **Baxter, Tamara**

---

**From:** Terry Fleege <terry.j.fleege@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2025 9:02 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Open house

CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!

Good morning Tamara, attended the open house regarding the new church to be built here in Flying Horse. Nicely done with pictures and some staff members to try to answer questions. Lots of upset home owners that will now have their view spoiled and Home value drop. I was hoping that there would be more of a public question and answer so input might have been passed on to you.

I don't think people are aware that they should email concerns to you?

The height of the steeple concerns me, and I know you answered that for me, but I think the city should care more about the residents and limit that height. The added traffic with the two roundabouts and the amount of construction traffic that will be on Barossa and Fling Horse Drive will be terrible. We already need speed bumps on both roads to slow people down. The bike lanes on Barossa are considered suicide lanes. Thanks for letting me vent, hope it makes some impact on the cities decisions.

Terry Fleege  
13275 Cake Bread Heights  
847 624 6658

Sent from my iPad



431 N. CASCADE AVENUE, STE. 1  
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80903  
TELEPHONE: (719) 215-8000  
FAX: (719) 457-5366

Michael D. Kuhn  
Email: [mkuhn@klcs.law](mailto:mkuhn@klcs.law)

October 14, 2025

*Via email – [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)*

Tamara Baxter  
Planning Supervisor – North Planning Area Team  
Planning Department  
City of Colorado Springs

Re: Public Comment re: Colorado Springs Temple  
2396 Veneto Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
DEPN-25-0056

Dear Ms. Baxter:

This firm represents Jennifer T. Kuhn, owner of the real property located at 12640 Woodruff Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921, situated within three miles of the proposed development of a Colorado Springs Temple at 2396 Veneto Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (the “Project”). Please accept this correspondence as Mrs. Kuhn’s formal comments regarding the Project and its compliance with the Colorado Springs Municipal Code and the Unified Building Code (“UBC”)

**1. Applicant’s Proposed 140½-Foot-Tall Spire Fails to Address the Screening Requirements Set Forth in Colorado Springs Unified Building Code § 7.4.203(B)(2)**

The Applicant proposes a temple featuring a spire reaching 140½ feet in height—roughly the size of a large wind turbine. This proposed spire exceeds the 40-foot maximum building height permitted for mixed-use neighborhood zoning under the UBC.

UBC § 7.4.203(B) governs exceptions to the height limitations, stating:

[N]o building or structure or part of a building or structure shall exceed the maximum building height within any zone district as shown in Tables 7.4.2-A through D, unless authorized in Table 7.4.2-F[.]

Tamara Baxter  
October 14, 2025  
Page 2 of 3

Relevant here, Table 7.4.2-F allows for religious “spires and towers” provided they do not exceed 5 percent of the footprint of the primary structure from which they arise.

However, UBC § 7.4.203(B)(2) further mandates that “building features that extend beyond the maximum building height pursuant to Table 7.4.2-F **shall be designed or screened to minimize visibility** from the R-E, R-1 9, R-1 6, R-2, and R-Flex Low zone districts, and from any portion of a PDZ district developed or designated for attached or detached single-family or two-family dwelling structures.” (Emphasis added).

While the Applicant cites the Table 7.4.2-F exception, **it fails entirely to address the design and screening requirements of UBC § 7.4.203(B)(2)**. See Westwood Project Statement, p. 8. Indeed, the Applicant’s plans do the opposite, proposing illumination of the spire—even at night—and renderings depict the spire painted in a reflective metallic gold color. Both illumination and highly reflective finishes directly contradict the code’s mandate to minimize visibility.

Mrs. Kuhn objects to the proposed spire because it does not comply with UBC § 7.4.203(B)(2). At a minimum, the Applicant should be required to:

- Prohibit illumination of the spire, except for lighting mandated by governmental authorities such as the FAA. Any permitted lighting should be soft, downward-directed, and minimally intrusive.
- Utilize materials and colors that blend with the sky or surrounding environment, employing earth tones with non-reflective or matte finishes to avoid glare.
- Screen the lower portions of the spire using roof parapets and mature landscaping, ensuring that the structure does not dominate the skyline of nearby residential districts.
- Significantly reduce the proposed height of the spire.

Failing to meet these screening and visibility requirements is contrary to the express language of the UBC, legally erroneous, and inconsistent with municipal code intent. Mrs. Kuhn submits these comments and expressly reserves her right to appeal any approval of the proposed spire to the Colorado Springs Planning Commission, the City Council, and to the District Court via Colo. R. Civ. P. 106.

## **2. Applicant's Proposal Does Not Adequately Address Traffic Concerns**

The Project proposes a large religious facility in the midst of a residential neighborhood, which will generate substantial traffic concentrated at predictable times, particularly Sundays and other major religious observances.

Key concerns include:

**Single Access Point:** The Applicant currently proposes only one access point on Veneto Way, which is a local residential street. This creates a bottleneck for ingress and egress, risks traffic congestion, and could compromise public safety during peak periods.

**Impact on Residential Streets:** A temple of this size will inevitably lead to overflow traffic into adjacent residential streets, including Woodruff Drive and surrounding neighborhoods. Residents will face increased vehicle volumes, higher speeds, and potential safety hazards for pedestrians, including children and the elderly.

**Emergency Access:** Concentrated traffic and limited access points may impede emergency vehicles, creating a safety hazard in the event of a medical emergency, fire, or other urgent situations.

**Parking and Queuing:** Large congregations may exceed the proposed on-site parking capacity, leading to vehicles queuing onto residential streets, blocking driveways, and creating hazards for school buses, cyclists, and neighborhood traffic.

**Traffic Study Deficiencies:** The Applicant's traffic analysis does not adequately address peak-hour impacts, sightline safety, and mitigation measures, such as turn lanes, signalization, or staggered entry/exit plans. A robust traffic study, including independent review and community input, is essential before approval.

Given these concerns, the Project's current traffic plan is inadequate and incompatible with the surrounding neighborhood. At a minimum, the Applicant should be required to:

- Provide secondary or alternative access points to disperse traffic and reduce congestion.
- Submit a comprehensive traffic impact study addressing peak hours, residential street impacts, emergency access, and pedestrian safety.

Tamara Baxter  
October 14, 2025  
Page 2 of 3

- Incorporate traffic mitigation measures, including turn lanes, signalization, staggered ingress/egress times, and signage to ensure neighborhood safety.
- Implement community-informed traffic management strategies to minimize the Project's impact on residential streets.

Mrs. Kuhn reserves the right to object to any approval that fails to meaningfully address these traffic concerns. occur during certain times, particularly on Sundays. Applicant currently only has one proposed access point on Veneto Way.

Either you or the applicant may reach me directly at (719) 651-5827.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael D. Kuhn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Kuhn

MDK/kb

## Tamara Baxter

---

**From:** W. West Allen <wwa@h2law.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2025 12:45 PM  
**To:** Tamara Baxter  
**Cc:** Trevor D Gloss  
**Subject:** RE: DEPN-25-0056 - Colorado Temple Resubmittal | 12960 Penfold Dr. Residence

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Thank you for the updated information, Tamara.

As one of the homeowners on Penfold Drive, parallel to Barossa Valley Road and directly overlooking the site of the proposed Colorado Springs Temple (DEPN-25-0056), few have a more direct and immediate interest in the proposed project's spires, lighting, parking, and traffic plans than my family. Accordingly, I have reviewed the applicant's response carefully. We find that **attorney Carolynne C. White's explanation on behalf of the Church sufficiently resolves all reasonable residents' concerns arising among those of us living within the applicable residential zone.**

Additionally, we concur that the Church's proposed religious spire would not violate screening requirements of the Colorado Springs Unified Development Code (UDC). More importantly, **the proposed spires and their concomitant lighting have significant religious meaning within religious communities and are therefore protected as an exercise of religion under federal civil rights law, including the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000cc et seq.**

We are mindful and grateful that the Colorado Department of Transportation has a duty to timely resolve identified traffic concerns by extending turn lanes on CO 83 at CO 83 and Flying Horse Club Drive, based on existing conditions, and that this work will be completed in conjunction with the new Colorado Springs Temple.

Thank you for all that you do. We look forward to the Planning Department's timely review and final approval of this project.

Sincerely,

W. West Allen

12960 Penfold Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
m: (702) 370-3199

**Howard & Howard** | W. West Allen  
law for business® | Attorney at Law

3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy, STE 1000, Las Vegas, NV 89169  
D: 702.667.4843 | F: 702.567.1568  
wwa@h2law.com | Bio | vCard | LinkedIn

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**From:** Tamara Baxter <Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2025 10:16 AM  
**To:** Tamara Baxter <Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov>  
**Subject:** DEPN-25-0056 - Colorado Temple Resubmittal

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL**

Hello,

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in this project.

The applicant team has made a resubmittal of the development plan and support documents.

You are able to view documents on ACA/Accela: <https://aca-prod.accela.com/COSPRINGS/Default.aspx>

The file number is DEPN-25-0056.

I have attached some basic instructions.

Review of this resubmittal will be completed by staff November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Let me know if you have any questions.



**Tamara Baxter**  
**Planning Supervisor**  
Planning Department – Development Review Enterprise  
City of Colorado Springs  
Direct: (719) 385-5621  
Email: [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

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 *Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

## Tamara Baxter

---

**From:** Lara Matissek <laramatissek@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 29, 2025 11:49 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Re: DEPN-25-0056\_Colorado Temple

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Hi Tamara,

I am interested in it NOT being built and this was my previous email sent.

Dear Tamara and To the Flying Horse HOA Board and Colorado Springs Government Officials,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed construction of a temple by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in the Flying Horse neighborhood.

While I respect the right of all religious groups to worship freely, I have serious concerns about the appropriateness of this development within our residential community. The proposed size and function of the temple would significantly alter the character of our neighborhood and raise a number of pressing issues, including:

- **Traffic and Safety:** Increased traffic volumes, especially during peak service times or events, could compromise the safety of our streets, particularly for families with young children and pedestrians.
- **Zoning and Land Use Compatibility:** A large-scale religious structure may not align with existing zoning regulations or the intended residential nature of Flying Horse. Allowing such a development could set a precedent for future projects that further erode the community's design and intent.
- **Light, Noise, and Aesthetic Impact:** Structures of this scale often operate late into the evening, which may bring unwanted lighting and noise. Additionally, the architecture may not conform to the design standards upheld in our community, potentially impacting property values.
- **Environmental and Infrastructure Strain:** Increased water usage, waste management, and utility demands may strain local infrastructure not designed for high-occupancy facilities.

I urge the Flying Horse HOA and the City of Colorado Springs to prioritize the integrity, values, and long-term vision of our community. Please take these concerns into serious consideration and deny approval for this proposed development. I understand the LDS church may have purchased this land, but this land should be for homes.

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing commitment to preserving the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Lara Matissek  
(She/her/hers)  
12765 Pensador Dr  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
Milan Village/Flying Horse resident

On Tue, Jul 29, 2025 at 11:07 AM Baxter, Tamara <[Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov)> wrote:

Hello,

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in this project.

The applicant team has made are submittal of the development plan.

You are able to view documents on ACA/Accela: <https://aca-prod.accela.com/COSPRINGS/Default.aspx>

The file number is DEPN-25-0056.

I have attached some basic instructions.

Let me know if you have any questions.



**Tamara Baxter**

**Planning Supervisor – North Planning Area Team**

Planning Department

City of Colorado Springs

Main Office: (719) 385-5905

Direct: (719) 385-5621

Email: [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

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 *Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

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Lara Matissek  
(she/her/hers)

## Tamara Baxter

---

**From:** linda miller <lMiller@illinoisalumni.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 11:29 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Cc:** miller572@illinoisalumni.org  
**Subject:** DEPN -15-0056

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RE: DEPN -15-0056

Tamara:

We live in the Siena West Village of Flying Horse and look directly south across the site for the proposed Mormon temple. The large temple, with its 14-story spire and 400+ car parking lot will be directly across from our home. Its addition will in no way conform to the size and proportions of the established neighborhood. What is proposed is building a huge structure in a residential area that will dominate the landscape. The city needs to take the necessary measures to disguise and reduce the impact of this structure.

We have these concerns:

1. Screening the structures from view of the surrounding neighborhood:
  - a. Require that the large parking lot be surrounded by berms around the outside.
  - b. Plant mature evergreen trees around the border for year-around screening. The deciduous trees shown on the initial drawings will not provide sufficient screening throughout the year.
  - c. **The city should require that the temple not be illuminated in any way at night.**  
Due to the structure's proposed size, such illumination would be a serious and unwelcome intrusion on the comfort of the surrounding neighborhood.
2. Ensuring safe traffic flow and control:
  - a. Has any study been done to gauge the effect of the greatly increased traffic to the area when services or meetings are held at the facility?  
Because at the initial meeting on this project we were told that the parking lot will accommodate 400+ vehicles, this is a legitimate concern. Unlike the existing Mormon temple located at Lexington and Research streets, two larger throughways, the site of the temple on the Flying Horse Drive/Barossa Valley Road offers no such throughways to handle the future increased traffic flow.
  - b. How does the city propose to safely evacuate the area in the event of an emergency, e.g., wildfires such as occurred locally in 2012 and 2013?  
The existing network of residential streets in our neighborhood are not designed to accommodate any other than incidental daily traffic. There are no throughways that could accommodate an evacuation should an emergency arise during a congregation of members at the temple.

Finally, we understand that a report of the input from our neighbors about this project will be distributed. Would you please send us a copy of the report when ready? Also, we would be very interested in attending a public hearing on this project.

Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Linda and Warren Miller, 12982 Cupcake Heights, Colorado Springs, CO 80921

319 331-2380    [lmiller@illinoisalumni.org](mailto:lmiller@illinoisalumni.org)

## Tamara Baxter

---

**From:** Dale Taylor <dt67vette@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 7:40 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Re: Mormon temple

[You don't often get email from dt67vette@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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I propose that the construction traffic be routed onto hwy 83 to avoid Barossa Valley Rd. Thanks again Tamara.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 19, 2025, at 7:29 AM, Dale Taylor <dt67vette@earthlink.net> wrote:

>

> Hello Tamara, my name is Dale Taylor. I live at 13154 Cake Bread Hts in the Flying Horse area. My home backs up to Barossa Valley Rd. I am very concerned about all of the construction traffic there will be on Barrosa, i.e. dump trucks, tractors, etc. from the temple project. Is this something that you can help me with? If not, maybe point me in the right direction? Thank you.

> Sent from my iPhone

## Tamara Baxter

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**From:** Dale Taylor <dt67vette@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 7:30 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Mormon temple

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Hello Tamara, my name is Dale Taylor. I live at 13154 Cake Bread Hts in the Flying Horse area. My home backs up to Barossa Valley Rd. I am very concerned about all of the construction traffic there will be on Barrosa, I.e. dump trucks, tractors, etc. from the temple project. Is this something that you can help me with? If not, maybe point me in the right direction? Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

## Tamara Baxter

---

**From:** MONICA FUCHS <smskfuchs@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 8:51 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara; MONICA FUCHS  
**Subject:** DEPN -15-0056 input from Fuchs  
**Attachments:** IMG\_20250818\_204725.jpg; IMG\_20250818\_204732.jpg; IMG\_20250818\_204717.jpg

You don't often get email from smskfuchs@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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August 19, 2025

Tamara Baxter  
City Planning Dept  
Colorado Springs, CO

Ms. Baxter, we live in Flying Horse in the Siena East village. We are EXTREMELY concerned about the visual, ESPECIALLY at night. This temple will be our primary view. Please, please, please ensure light pollution does not become a large part of our lovely residential neighborhood. All parties to this project would benefit from a good start, and would not want to start this long-term relationship on such as bad tone (I'm thinking of the amphitheater).

Our home is paired with Dave Phillips'. We agree with everything Dave has submitted and also want to provide pictures to highlight how impactful this project is to our everyday lives.

Of primary concern:

1. Lights turned off at night. If they do have lights in the evening, they need to be minimal and downward facing so they don't "project" into the nearby residential areas.
2. Ensure the "residential" feel is maintained with blocking/softening evergreen trees (which are of sufficient size to do any good!)

We can't imagine long winter nights with the entire back of our primary living space bombarded with bright lights. Unless prevented by the city, we are told the temple plans to leave lights on all night! Our attached pictures are taken from our open main living area including our kitchen (view from the sink on our peninsula) as well as our dining area.

The highlight of our home is the open view of the mountains. Please ensure this remains a peaceful highlight and not a distressing burden we need to hide from!

Monica and Scott Fuchs  
13094 Cake Bread Hts  
719 339-8797







## Tamara Baxter

---

**From:** Richard Reeves <ibcycling@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 2:37 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Comment on Record Number DEPN-25-0056

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Ms. Baxter,

I am commenting on the project name:  
Colorado Springs Temple

I live one block from the project site with a view of the proposed structure.

It is unfortunate that a more focused public information meeting was not provided to give residents a formal overview of the project and have the opportunity to collectively discuss it with the Planning Department and applicant's representatives in attendance. The informal open house format that was held in the applicant's facility was vastly lacking in a proper transfer of information from the Planning Department and the applicant. That event was half marketing pitch by the applicant's organization and half unstructured casual conversation with the Planning Department and the applicant's project representatives. I did not talk to anyone who walked away most of their questions answered since it was such an informal affair.

The only quality information are the project documents in the Planning Department's open access files. I reviewed this material, but I am concerned that many people have not. Review or not, many people have strong opinions about the project because it does not take an in depth inspection to know that this is not appropriate for the aesthetics, quality of life, and potential negative financial impact to this community.

In light of the lack of direct face to face information, I trust that you received comments from residents in the affected neighborhoods on this project and people were willing to providing their opinion.

If not, it is unfortunate because I have not discussed this project with anyone who has a favorable opinion and supports it. Many area residents believe they are powerless with the applicant organization and the process, and their objections and opinions will be ignored by the Planning Department without regard to the effect on their quality of life.

And, this is a quality of life issue along with the highly negative impact on a high quality residential community.

A structure of the magnitude of the proposed commercial building with a 13 story spire is without question a grossly unwanted impact upon this community. Upon approval, it would rival the tallest structures in downtown Colorado Springs but within a residential neighborhood. How can anyone outside of the applicant's organization make a legitimate argument that this project is suitable for a high

quality residential community where people bought homes and pay a premium for this lifestyle and quality of life? And, this is a commercial structure. Only with leniency in the building code that qualifies this building as a religious structure vs. a commercial structure, does this give the applicant freedom to ignore any height restrictions. The spire can be any height with the structural engineering parameters and a footprint no larger than 5% of the total structure being the only limiting factors. This has no place in our residential community and should be placed in a commercial development.

Most people in this community and few reasonable people outside of the applicant's organization would agree that they bought their homes - as likely their single most important financial investment - and then welcome a massive commercial structure to negatively impact their quality of life and potentially devalue their home investment. This is absolutely the feelings of residents I have encountered.

The property should have never been sold with this intended purpose. It is absolutely unfathomable why this property was sold for the intended project by the same developer that built and markets this community as an upscale premier country club development and place the temple near the club entrance. That transaction cannot be undone. However, with an opportunity to stop the project from proceeding, the current wishes and quality of life of the community can now be properly addressed and assured. It gives the applicant an opportunity to research a different site that is appropriate with regard to the impact it poses on the neighboring community. It belongs in a commercial development.

Withholding the project application gives the applicant an opportunity to do the right thing and put the quality of life of the current residents above their own desires. Proceeding with the project absolutely sends the message to the community that the desires of the applicant's organization supersedes the personal impact and quality of life upon each person affected by the proximity of this structure.

At this point in time, the collective community comments will provide the applicant a very strong and consistent message to please seek another location. Such negative impact upon the quality of life in this community is not consistent with the values of their organization and clearly demonstrates an opposite view of their purpose.

If the project can be denied entirely by the Planning Department at this time, that is the absolute best decision for this community.

This leaves the issue of the subject parcels being currently classified as Mixed-Use Neighborhood Scale. The potential for any commercial development is in play and still has impact on the community without the approval of the current proposed project. The quality of life issue will continue with any and all future non-residential development.

Thank you for your consideration to protect and assure the quality of life in our community.

Richard Reeves



431 N. CASCADE AVENUE, STE. 1  
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80903  
TELEPHONE: (719) 215-8000  
FAX: (719) 457-5366

**Michael D. Kuhn**  
Email: [mkuhn@klcs.law](mailto:mkuhn@klcs.law)

October 25, 2025

***Via email only***

Trevor D. Gloss, Esq. – [trevor.gloss@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:trevor.gloss@coloradosprings.gov)  
Colorado Springs Deputy City Attorney  
30 S. Nevada Avenue, Suite 501  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Tamara Baxter – [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)  
Senior Planner, City of Colorado Springs  
30 S. Nevada Avenue, Suite 501  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Re: Public Comment re: Colorado Springs Temple  
2396 Veneto Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
DEPN-25-0056

Dear Mr. Gloss and Ms. Baxter:

My client and I have reviewed the Applicant's response to our comment submitted on October 14, 2025, regarding the proposed 140 ½ foot-tall temple spire. This letter addresses a few points raised in the Applicant's response.

**I. Applicant's Religious Purpose Does Not Exempt It from Complying with the UDC.**

Applicant relies on *Martin v. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 747 N.E.2d 131, 137 (Mass. 2001), for the proposition that it is not the government's role to determine "whether the inclusion of a visible and highlighted steeple is integral to a temple's religious purposes." 10/22/25 Ltr., at 1.

*Martin*, however, is readily distinguishable and, in fact, undermines Applicant's position. The *Martin* court merely held that government officials may not second-guess whether an architectural feature has a religious as opposed to an aesthetic function. Mrs. Kuhn does not dispute that Applicant's proposed spire serves

October 25, 2025

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a religious purpose. The issue is far narrower: whether a religious applicant must nevertheless comply with the neutral, generally applicable requirements of the Uniform Building Code.

Courts uniformly hold that houses of worship are subject to municipal building and zoning regulations that are reasonably related to legitimate governmental interests in promoting public health, safety, and general welfare. *See Bd. of Zoning Appeals v. Decatur, Ind. Co. of Jehovah's Witnesses*, 117 N.E.2d 115, 118 (Ind. 1954); *City of Solon v. Solon Baptist Temple, Inc.*, 457 N.E.2d 858 (Ohio Ct. App. 1982); *City of Sherman v. Simms*, 183 S.W.2d 415 (Tex. 1944); *Wojtanowski v. Franciscan Fathers Minor Conventuals*, 148 N.W.2d 54 (Wis. 1967); *Hintz v. Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church*, 109 N.W.2d 61 (Wis. 1961). These decisions recognize that neutral building and safety standards may be applied to religious structures without offending constitutional protections.

Indeed, *Martin* itself reaffirmed that religious buildings remain subject to municipal regulation when the rules advance legitimate governmental purposes—such as preserving neighborhood character, protecting sightlines and access to light, and maintaining aesthetic harmony. *See also City of Ladue v. Gilleo*, 512 U.S. 43, 49 (1994) (recognizing the municipal interest in visual harmony and consistency); *Berman v. Parker*, 348 U.S. 26, 33 (1954) (aesthetics and general welfare are valid bases for land-use regulation).

*Martin* is notable for another reason. The court expressly observed that the local board was entitled to consider whether a reduced steeple height would reasonably accommodate both the church's needs and the town's legitimate interests. 747 N.E.2d at 140. The church voluntarily amended its design, *lowering the steeple from 156 feet to 83 feet*. *Id.* at n.22. Applicant has made no comparable effort here.

Accordingly, *Martin* provides no shelter for Applicant's refusal to comply with applicable height regulations. Rather, it confirms the principle that municipalities may enforce neutral, generally applicable building codes against religious structures when those regulations further legitimate and well-established public purposes.

## **II. Existing Zoning Changes Nothing.**

Applicant contends that because no zoning changes have been proposed for the surrounding area, nearby residents have long been on notice that the property would be used for religious purposes. This argument collapses under its own weight. The surrounding parcels were, and remain, zoned for residential use. That undisputed fact is precisely why the screening and design requirements in UDC § 7.4.203(B)(2) apply in full. Applicant cannot simultaneously rely on the area's residential zoning to

October 25, 2025

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claim “notice” while ignoring the residential protections that accompany that same zoning classification.

Moreover, even accepting Applicant’s notice argument at face value, it is legally irrelevant. Awareness that a parcel might be used for religious purposes does not exempt construction from compliance with neutral, generally applicable building regulations. Religious use is not a license to disregard the UDC.

Applicant’s argument also fails on its facts. The record shows Applicant did not acquire the property until 2012. See *El Paso County Property Records*, Parcel No. 6209303001 (<https://property.spatalest.com/co/elpaso/#/property/6209303001>). Many of the surrounding homes—including Mrs. Kuhn’s residence, constructed in 2009—predate Applicant’s acquisition. Those homeowners could not have had any notice, constructive or otherwise, that a large-scale religious facility would later be built near their properties.

In short, Applicant’s notice theory not only misstates the facts but also misconstrues the law. The applicable zoning and building requirements exist to protect residential character and the rights of neighboring homeowners—protections that Applicant must honor, not evade.

### III. Applicant’s Interpretation of “Screening” Fails.

Applicant concedes that UDC § 7.4.203(B)(2) imposes mandatory screening for any structure exceeding the maximum height in residential neighborhoods. Yet, in a blatant effort to evade compliance, Applicant attempts to rewrite the Code, asserting—without a shred of textual support—that these screening requirements apply only to mechanical equipment like HVAC units. This interpretation is meritless. The Code explicitly addresses both mechanical features and architectural elements, including church spires, in Table 7.4.2-F. Nowhere does § 7.4.203(B)(2) limit its reach to mechanical structures alone. The purpose of these provisions is plain: to preserve visual harmony, protect neighborhood aesthetics, and maintain the character of residential areas. Applicant cannot manufacture exceptions where none exist.

Applicant compounds this error by seizing on the phrase “designed or screened” and claiming that the proposed spire complies based solely on its design. This argument is entirely hollow—but at a minimum, the City should mandate design requirements that minimize visibility. Such design requirements should limit the size of the spire (as in *Martin*), prohibit illumination, and mandate matte, neutral paint.

October 25, 2025

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Each of Applicant's so-called "design features" fails on its own terms—even it were not subject to the "screening" requirement:

- "Golden Ratio". Applicant asserts that the spire adheres to the "Golden Ratio," as if invoking architectural mythology excuses noncompliance. There is no evidence—none—demonstrating that a 140½-foot spire actually complies. This is pure *ipse dixit*, unsubstantiated opinion masquerading as fact. Compliance with the Code cannot be outsourced to self-serving claims about aesthetics.
- Lighting. Applicant further claims it will illuminate the spire with a "narrow beam" of light. This is patently contrary to the Code. Lighting increases visibility; it does not mitigate it. Any illumination beyond government-mandated safety requirements exacerbates the very visual impact the screening requirements are designed to prevent.
- Reflectivity and Materials. Applicant promises materials "carefully chosen to avoid excessive reflectivity." Yet the only evidence submitted depicts a gold, highly reflective spire. No colors, no finishes, no specifications—just Applicant's unverified assurance. The City cannot—and must not—accept such empty representations. Any approval must be conditioned on enforceable specifications for color, finish, and materials that actually minimize visual impact, consistent with UDC § 7.4.203(B)(2).

In short, Applicant's interpretation of the Code is wrong. It attempts to nullify the plain language, structure, and purpose of the Code, while offering nothing more than speculative design assertions in its stead. The screening and design requirements apply squarely to the proposed spire, and any suggestion otherwise is meritless.

#### **IV. Legal and Planning Precedent Dot Not Support the Proposed Spire.**

Applicant contends that "[n]umerous religious structures in Colorado Springs and other municipalities feature illuminated spires or towers without physical screening." 10/22/25 Ltr., at 3. This argument is entirely unsubstantiated: Applicant fails to identify a single example in its submission, leaving Mrs. Kuhn with nothing to respond to but unsupported assertion. Claims without citation or evidence cannot carry the day.

Even the examples that Mrs. Kuhn can identify are wholly inapposite for three independent reasons:

Antiquity. Many cited structures were built in the late 19th or early 20th centuries, long before the adoption of the UDC. Historical precedent does not override current, generally applicable building regulations.

Context. These spires are not located in residential neighborhoods, but in downtown or commercial districts, where visual impact and neighborhood character are governed by entirely different considerations.

Size and Scale. Existing spires are significantly shorter than the one proposed by Applicant.

Illustrative examples include:

- Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1872). This iconic downtown bell tower rises to only 90 feet—50 feet shorter than Applicant's proposed spire—and is situated outside any residential zone.  
<https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2018/5ep350.pdf> at p.3
- Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun (1937). The shrine's spire reaches 100 feet. It is located outside residential areas and predates the UDC by decades.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will\\_Rogers\\_Shrine\\_of\\_the\\_Sun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Rogers_Shrine_of_the_Sun)
- St. Mary's Cathedral (1891). The cathedral features an east steeple of 73 feet, far below the height of Applicant's proposed structure.  
<https://www.stmaryscathedral.org/about>
- Shove Memorial Chapel (1914) . The chapel features a 30 foot tall spire and is near residential areas. The spire is 90 feet shorter than Applicant's proposed spire. <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/chaplainsoffice/spaces/shove-memorial-chapel.html>

None of these examples supports Applicant's claim that its proposed 140½-foot illuminated spire can escape the UDC's screening and design requirements. They differ in age, context, and scale, and therefore are legally and factually irrelevant. Applicant's reliance on unspecified "numerous" structures is nothing more than rhetoric; it cannot substitute for compliance with the Code.

It is telling that Applicant first raised the design and screening requirements in the UDC only in response to Mrs. Kuhn's objection and comment. Nothing it has said alters the conclusion that the proposed spire violates the UDC. Rather than minimizing its visibility in a residential area, Applicant's design emphasizes the spire

October 25, 2025

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through its size, color, and illumination. The City should require modifications to the spire as set forth above, including a reduction in size.

Mrs. Kuhn also reaffirms her objections to the traffic concerns previously raised.

Mrs. Kuhn remains willing to engage with Applicant to discuss modifications that could address her concerns. Absent such changes, she will appeal of any approval through the Planning Commission, City Council, and the District Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael D. Kuhn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael D. Kuhn

MDK/

cc: Client  
Carolynne C. White, Esq. (cwhite@bhfs.com)

## Tamara Baxter

---

**From:** Steve Zenger <szenger13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 3, 2025 9:09 AM  
**To:** Tamara Baxter  
**Subject:** Re: DEPN-25-0056 - Colorado Temple Resubmittal

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Just hope that things will start moving forward quickly.

On Mon, Nov 3, 2025, 9:06 AM Tamara Baxter <[Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Zenger,

Did you have any comments on this project?



**Tamara Baxter**

**Planning Supervisor**

Planning Department – Development Review Enterprise

City of Colorado Springs

Direct: (719) 385-5621

Email: [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

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**From:** Steve Zenger <[szenger13@gmail.com](mailto:szenger13@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 2, 2025 11:46 AM  
**To:** Tamara Baxter <[Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: DEPN-25-0056 - Colorado Temple Resubmittal

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

On Fri, Oct 24, 2025, 11:15 AM Tamara Baxter <[Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov)> wrote:

Hello,

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in this project.

The applicant team has made a resubmittal of the development plan and support documents.

You are able to view documents on ACA/Accela: <https://aca-prod.accela.com/COSPRINGS/Default.aspx>

The file number is DEPN-25-0056.

I have attached some basic instructions.

Review of this resubmittal will be completed by staff November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Let me know if you have any questions.



**Tamara Baxter**

**Planning Supervisor**

Planning Department – Development Review Enterprise

City of Colorado Springs

Direct: (719) 385-5621

Email: [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

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## Tamara Baxter

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**From:** Matt Griffith <mattgriff7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:39 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** Colorado Springs LDS Temple

You don't often get email from mattgriff7@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Hi Tamara,

I was wondering what the latest status was on the proposed Colorado Springs Colorado Temple. I read that there was a neighborhood meeting but I haven't heard any updates about that meeting. Is there any update?

My family will be moving to Colorado Springs soon and we were excited to hear about the building of the temple.

What's the best way to monitor the progress of this project?

Thanks,  
Matt Griffith

## Tamara Baxter

---

**From:** W. West Allen <wwa@h2law.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025 12:44 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara  
**Subject:** RE: Colorado Springs Temple Project | City File Project No. DEPN-25-0056 | 12960 Penfold Dr.

**CAUTION! - External Email. Malware is most commonly spread through unknown email attachments and links. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email!**

Thank you. Please include this email on any listserv or other electronic updates for the project.

Finally, I noted a recent published July 1, 2025 correspondence from CDOT that suggests certain City approvals may be delayed pending CDOT approval. I presume the developer and CDOT will work everything out. However, it may be wise at some point for our City to help CDOT's Access Manager better understand federal civil rights law regarding land development by religious institutions. The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Person Act (RLUIPA), 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc, affords special protection to religious exercise in the land-use context and, therefore, shifts the burden to the government (e.g., CDOT) to show a "compelling government interest" when restricting religious land use development due to an alleged traffic concern.

Kind regards,

West

**Howard & Howard** | W. West Allen  
law for business® Attorney at Law

3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy, STE 1000, Las Vegas, NV 89169  
D: 702.667.4843 | F: 702.567.1568  
wwa@h2law.com | Bio | vCard | LinkedIn

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**From:** Baxter, Tamara <Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025 9:18 AM  
**To:** W. West Allen <wwa@h2law.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Colorado Springs Temple Project | City File Project No. DEPN-25-0056 | 12960 Penfold Dr.

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL**

Mr. Allen,  
Thank you for your email.  
I cannot speak to when this project will break ground.  
The project has not been resubmitted to the City for rereview.  
I am not sure when the application will resubmit.  
I have created a listserv of interested public and will send out an email when a resubmittal is made.

Let me know if you have any additional questions.



**Tamara Baxter**  
**Planning Supervisor – North Planning Area Team**  
Planning Department  
City of Colorado Springs  
Main Office: (719) 385-5905  
Direct: (719) 385-5621  
Email: [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

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**From:** W. West Allen <[wwa@h2law.com](mailto:wwa@h2law.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025 8:31 AM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara <[Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Colorado Springs Temple Project | City File Project No. DEPN-25-0056 | 12960 Penfold Dr.

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Good morning and thank you so much, Tamara, for your helpful assistance in providing information regarding this Colorado Springs project.

In speaking with our new neighbors in the Flying Horse community, it seems there is considerable anticipation and excitement for this particular Colorado Springs development and its start date. I've reviewed the publicly available online planning link "Processing Status" and it looks like most all of the application and review steps have been completed and marked with green check marks (see image below). From this information, is it possible to know more specific details regarding the likely timing as to when this project may begin, or at least be approved by the City for the developer to start?

My wife and I are interested to know when construction may begin and the timing as it appears likely most of the construction will occur directly across from our home. We're excited for the beautiful landscaping and architecture of this development, but would like to be prepared and have a clear understanding regarding the anticipated construction project timeline.

Best regards,

## Processing Status

 ▶ Application Submittal

 ▶ Invoice Fees

 ▼ Review Route

**Due on 05/07/2025, assigned to TB**  
**Marked as Ready for Reviews on 05/07/2025 by TB**

---

**Due on 05/30/2025, assigned to TB**  
**Marked as Corrections Received on 06/11/2025 by TB**

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**Due on 05/30/2025, assigned to TB**  
**Marked as TBD on TBD by TBD**

Airport

ADA

Budget

CSURA

City Attorney

CDOT

Coordinated Sign Permit

Housing and Homelessness Response

 ▶ CSPD

 ▶ Comcast

 ▶ Century Link

Downtown Partnership

County Planning

Economic Development

El Paso County Health Department

**Howard & Howard** | W. West Allen  
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**From:** Baxter, Tamara <[Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, June 20, 2025 12:29 PM

**To:** W. West Allen <[wwa@h2law.com](mailto:wwa@h2law.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Colorado Springs Temple Project | City File Project No. DEPN-25-0056 | RLUIPA 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc

Mr. Allen,

Thank you for your continued interest in this project.

This project is being reviewed administratively by city staff since it's an allowed use in the zone district.

This project will not be heard by City Planning Commission nor City Council unless the administratively decision is appealed by a member of the public or the applicant team.

Your comments will be made public and provided to the applicant team.

Let me know if you have any additional questions.



**Tamara Baxter**

**Planning Supervisor – North Planning Area Team**

Planning Department

City of Colorado Springs

Main Office: (719) 385-5905

Direct: (719) 385-5621

Email: [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

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## Tamara Baxter

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**From:** W. West Allen <wwa@h2law.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2025 6:00 PM  
**To:** Tamara Baxter  
**Cc:** Marc Smith  
**Subject:** RE: DEPN-25-0056-Colorado Temple Resubmittal

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Thank you, Tamara. My wife and I are grateful to be new homeowners in the Flying Horse community directly east across the street from this temple project.

As a federal Constitutional lawyer familiar with the important RLUIPA and First Amendment issues arising from a religious institution's proposed land use, it was reassuring to see and review the helpful, legally accurate document submitted on behalf of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint by Mrs. Carolynne White. Municipalities are wise to note that under federal civil rights law (*i.e.*, RLUIPA), a religious structure's architectural features—including its design, steeple, and lighting—are an expression of religious exercise. Indeed, it is well recognized that religious architecture is a meaningful tangible, reflection of the American People's protected, inalienable right to exercise their faith without undue government interference. My wife and I look forward to seeing this beautiful temple project completed soon.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance as a nearby homeowner familiar with the federal legal issues that may arise as this project moves forward. Even more importantly, please thank the entire Colorado Springs Planning Department for its tireless work and commitment to building and strengthening the Colorado Springs community.

Sincerely,

W. West Allen  
12960 Penfold Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
m: (702) 370-3199

**Howard & Howard** | W. West Allen  
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**From:** Baxter, Tamara <Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 24, 2025 3:50 PM  
**To:** Baxter, Tamara <Tamara.Baxter@coloradosprings.gov>  
**Subject:** DEPN-25-0056-Colorado Temple Resubmittal

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL**

Hello,

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in this project.

The applicant team has made a resubmittal of the development plan and support documents.

You are able to view documents on ACA/Accela: <https://aca-prod.accela.com/COSPRINGS/Default.aspx>

The file number is DEPN-25-0056.

I have attached some basic instructions.

Review of this resubmittal will be completed by staff October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Let me know if you have any questions.



**Tamara Baxter**

**Planning Supervisor**

Planning Department – Development Review Enterprise

City of Colorado Springs

Direct: (719) 385-5621

Email: [tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:tamara.baxter@coloradosprings.gov)

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