

Dear Constituent,

As you receive this letter, advance voting for the May 24 Republican primary is underway. I wanted to take a moment to encourage you to vote and to address something that is being said about me that is both untrue and causing confusion.

One of the toughest challenges a commissioner faces is finding the right balance between preserving a good quality of life for all residents and formulating new approaches to address specific housing needs. Finding that balance for senior-targeted housing is a challenge we're currently working on.

My opponent and his supporters are painting me as "anti-senior" because I am not supporting the Isakson Living proposal to building a four-story, high-density, senior-living complex on Roswell Road, next to the East Cobb Park. Once you have the facts, I think you will understand and support my position.

From early on, I have been skeptical of the Isakson proposal. I believe that, at 480 units, it is too large and would negatively impact nearby single-family residential areas. In many ways, the Isakson project would be the equivalent of opening a major hotel on that site. A development of this magnitude would require large truck deliveries, generate heavy resident and visitor traffic and necessitate large-scale dumpster trash pickup, to only name a few of the issues.

Some have asked how the Isakson development is different from the Sterling Estates development on Lower Roswell Road, which I supported. The Sterling project has only 90 units in the main building, six cottage-style buildings and blends well with the residential communities around it.

There is no question that there is a growing need for senior-oriented housing and that the price and availability of land in East Cobb presents its challenges. However, I don't believe the Isakson Living proposal is the solution, at least not in its currently proposed location. We must guard against overdeveloping the land, simply because it is there. For many in our community, their home is their single largest asset. I cannot, in good conscience; vote for a residential development that I believe will negatively impact nearby home values.

For months, county staff and housing experts worked to create a blueprint for well-planned, quality communities that serve their intended purpose, but that are respectful of the concerns of those who live nearby. Two new senior living community proposals that will incorporate concepts in the blueprint are expected to come before the county commission over the next few months. Both would be built in District 2. Early indications are that they will both be quality communities that will be viewed by nearby neighbors as an asset rather than a liability.

As your commissioner, I believe it is my duty to keep your concerns top of mind as I work to further new projects and approaches to dealing with issues facing the county. If you agree with this approach, I ask that you take time to go vote and that you support me to continue to work for you.

Sincerely,

Bob Ott