



Subtract, Inc. Response to Public Letters for Conditional Use Permit

4 neighbors mentioned increased traffic.

Town of Southeast Code - Part II: Article X § 138-56.2 Home occupations. A. (12) Takes care of this by only allowing 12 vehicles per day. In reality, the amount of vehicles will be far less than that. I have reached out to DJS Firearms. This business has the same type of license as Subtract, Inc. and is approximately 11 miles as the crow flies. Unlike Subtract, Inc., DJS is a well established business with a storefront. They are even a Glock master dealer which requires a significant volume of sales to achieve. They do a maximum of 2 FFL transfers per day and the business owner considers this "a lot."

2 neighbors asked that I be required to get a commercial space instead.

A Home Occupation is explicitly allowed under the *Town of Southeast Code Part II: Article X § 138-56.2*. Furthermore, Subtract, Inc. is a side business of Jason and Ashley Smith. As such, we don't have the time nor the capital to maintain and staff a commercial space. Additionally, starting a business in one's garage is a very American endeavor. This is a short list of companies that started in a garage[1]:

- Amazon
- Apple
- Disney
- Google
- Harley Davidson
- Hewlett-Packard
- Maglite
- Mattel
- Yankee Candle Company

2 neighbors suggested that this permit will interfere with the privacy/peace/quiet of the neighborhood.

In terms of the additional traffic generated, see the response above. In more general terms, all business activities undertaken will not be visibly or audibly detectable from outside the dwelling. *Town of Southeast Code - Part II: Article X § 138-56.2 Home occupations. A. paragraphs (4) and (6)* make this not just a promise of the applicant, but an enforceable condition of the permit.

6.15.21 forwarded to PB

2 neighbors made mention of shooting range type activities.

Shooting ranges are covered under *Town of Southeast Code - Part II: Article X § 138-54.2 Shooting ranges*. I am not seeking such a permit. I am seeking a conditional use permit for Home Occupation which is covered under *Town of Southeast Code - Part II: Article X § 138-56.2 Home occupations* which does not grant me permission to operate a shooting range.

2 neighbors state that this would invite less than desirable people into the neighborhood.

I would not consider lawful gun owners to be "less than desirable" people. Just the opposite. Lawful gun owners are good, American people exercising their right to keep and bear arms. In fact, the subgroup of gun owners who have a CCW permits are the most statistically law-abiding Americans. A 2019 study[2] conducted by John R. Lott, Ph.D at the Crime Prevention Research Center highlighted just how law-abiding CCW permit holders are. The study found that Police are very law-abiding, being convicted of crimes 37 times less than the general population. However, that pales in comparison to CCW holders, who are convicted of misdemeanors and felonies 6 times less than Police are.

2 neighbors expressed concerns that this permit would enable people to buy firearms without a background check.

This is an extremely dangerous misconception. Sadly, this misconception is deliberately pushed by gun control groups and politicians so it is not the fault of my neighbors. In the great State of New York, there is no such thing as a lawful gun transaction (private sale or dealer)[3] that does not involve a Federal NICS[4] background check. The only exception is immediate (i.e. no cousins, aunts, uncles, etc.) family members[5]. An example is if a Father gives or sells his personal firearm to his daughter. For all other private party sales of firearms, an FFL (such as Subtract, Inc.) is required to perform the transaction and conduct background checks[6]. In any state if you are a gun dealer such as Subtract, Inc., it is a felony to transfer any firearm to any individual without a NICS background check. Period. Contrary to what gun control groups and politicians will have you believe, there are no exceptions to this. I cannot even transfer guns TO MYSELF WITHOUT PERFORMING A BACKGROUND CHECK ON MYSELF! Even if I'm at a gun show and sell a shotgun to my own son without a background check, I am a felon and will likely do time in a federal penitentiary if caught.

1 neighbor notes that according to the town bylaws, customers can't visit my property.

This is true for retail type sales. However, I will not be inviting customers to the premises to purchase goods. I will be facilitating firearm transfers between private parties. The procedure is heavily regulated by the ATF[6] and as discussed earlier, an FFL (such as Subtract, Inc.) is required for all firearms transactions in New York State. Subtract, Inc. charges a fee for brokering the transaction and doing the necessary background checks, paperwork, and record keeping. Since this requires 45-60 minutes of work, appointments are a necessary requirement for this and Subtract, Inc. will be able to tightly control the amount of vehicles showing up on

site. As noted in the first section, we do not anticipate more than 2 of these transfer per day on our best days.

1 neighbor wants clarification about not having inventory on hand.

See the section above about customers visiting the premises. I will not have "general inventory" on hand for customers to show up and browse/purchase. I can only sell online and ship goods to customers.

1 neighbor suggests there might be an omission about wetlands on short environmental survey.

There are no wetlands on my property. You can visit eParcel[7] and view the property. Click "Enter Eparcel" towards the bottom center of the page. Click "OK" on the pop-up. Browse to the property in question by zooming and scrolling. Clicking the parcel will bring up a small window. Click "More Info" within the small window. This will open a new browser window. Click "Click here for public access". You will be taken to the property data page. Look under the section named "Land Types" at the bottom. If there are wetlands on the parcel, it will list exactly how many acres are designated as such. You can clearly see that there are no wetlands on my parcel.

1 neighbor suggests the neighborhood description on short environmental survey is wrong.

I used the zoning and property class listed on the county property data page mentioned above.

1 neighbor wonders what is stopping Subtract, Inc. from increasing the size of the operation?

Town of Southeast Code - Part II: Article X § 138-56.2 Home occupations. A. paragraph (5) states "The total floor area dedicated to the home occupation shall not exceed 30% of the gross floor area of the principal dwelling unit."

1 neighbor wants to know what kinds of waste does this type of manufacturing produce? Coolant? Won't waste haulers be needed?

As mentioned in the May 2021 planning board meeting, the waste product of this type of manufacturing is aluminum chips. The CNC machine has an auger that moves the chips from the bottom of the machine where they collect into a bin. Any type of bin can be used, but it is typical for a 32 gallon rubbermaid-type trashcan to be used. I will drive this bin in my pickup to recycle the chips for money. Hiring a waste hauler wouldn't be economical since a recycler will only pay around 50 cents/lbs. The coolant is not a waste product. It is recycled through a sump at the bottom of the machine where it is filtered and pumped back through the system. My CNC mill will not be plumbed for water or sewage. There is coolant loss through evaporation and droplets that make their way out through the auger into the chip bin. When coolant levels

get low, coolant is added. There are ways to reduce the amount of coolant loss[8]. CNC coolant is mostly water with a little bit of mineral oil[9] and is generally nothing to worry about.

1 neighbor wants to know how deliveries be handled safely. Won't special (i.e. non residential) shipping services be required since these are firearms?

Surprisingly, there is no such thing as a certified firearms shipper/transporter. The vast majority of firearms are transported through normal carriers such as UPS, FedEx, USPS, etc. My existing neighborhood UPS and FedEx drivers will be the ones picking up and dropping off the firearms. Carriers have policies for special shipments such as firearms[10] and it is against policy for them to leave such packages unattended. Firearm shipments must be received by a person.

2 neighbors questioned the character of the applicant. One neighbor said the following:

"I do not understand how a person could say that he lived on Sherwood Hill when he clearly does not have his driveway over the stream coming down the hill. He does not have a driveway on Sherwood Hill. All you have to do is drive on Welfare Road and look up on the right to see that his driveway and mailbox are on Welfare Road. How can you trust anything he says or does?" I believe I know what this neighbor is referencing. My wife and I purchased the house in 2018. It was listed as "20 Sherwood Hill" on all of the realtor sites and this was perpetuated by the developer and realtor[14][15]. Her grievance is with the developer/realtor, not with my wife and I who purchased the home. Neither my Wife nor I have ever met this neighbor and I believe she is confused. I never claim to live anywhere but 20 Welfare since I'd like to receive my mail :)

Another neighbor writes:

"A Google search has revealed that this business is to be called 'Subtract Inc.' I am appalled that a business selling weapons would choose to refer to themselves as a company by which you can 'subtract' someone or something from the world. If this is indicative of the type of business they hope to run, it is further reason to block this proposal." This is extremely puzzling. Again, my wife nor I have ever met this person. I'm not sure how they fabricated the backstory of the company name, but it has no basis in reality. The name Subtract comes from the type of manufacturing we intend to perform which is subtractive manufacturing[16].

2 neighbors voiced concern over firearms being sold in the neighborhood.

See the section above regarding customers visiting the premises. I am not permitted to have customers show up solely to shop/browse, therefore I cannot sell firearms to the local community.

2 neighbors asked about safe storage and security.

The ATF has strict guidelines regarding safe storage. More importantly, we have 3 small boys running around the house so we take safe gun storage very seriously. We have a large-capacity gun safe lagged to our concrete garage floor. The gun safe is not your typical gun safe. The

safes that are sold in big-box stores for around \$1,000 are vulnerable to pry attacks[17]. We opted for a much more secure and fireproof safe from Fort Knox safes (1,500 l.b.s. and roughly \$7,000) custom ordered which had to be delivered by professional riggers because of the size and weight. In addition to the gun safe, we have an IoT surveillance system monitoring the safe 24/7 that can be configured to send an alert when motion is detected.

2 neighbors mentioned mass shootings.

Surely these are tragic events. It is sad and unfortunate that these events are usurped by those wishing to strip Americans of their rights and push their political agendas. I would ask that before my neighbors use the death of Americans to further their political views, they stop and think. In one of the most recent mass shootings in Boulder, C.O., a police officer by the name of Eric Talley lost his life running into danger to protect his fellow citizens. Predictably, the media, gun control groups, and politicians quickly pounced and hijacked the narrative to push for stripping citizens of their rights. However, Eric Talley was a strong supporter of the Second Amendment[11]. His father said "My son would have been deeply offended to know his death would be used to promote gun control. Before he was an officer, he enjoyed shooting"[11]. The undeniable fact is that firearms are used for good far more than they are used for evil. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) studied defensive use of firearms and found that guns are used somewhere between 500,000 and 3,000,000 times each year for defensive purposes (i.e. stopping a crime or preventing serious bodily harm or death)[12][13].

[1] <https://retireat21.com/blog/10-companies-started-garages>

[2] https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3463357

[3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_show_loophole#States_requiring_background_checks_for_private_sales

[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Instant_Criminal_Background_Check_System

[5] <https://www.cashmyguns.com/blog/how-to-sell-a-gun-in-new-york/>

[6] <https://www.atf.gov/rules-and-regulations/docs/ruling/atf-proc-2020-2-%E2%80%93-recordkeeping-and-background-check-procedure/download>

[7] <https://www.putnamcountyny.com/itgis/eparcel/>

[8] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGjkavRmFpw>

[9] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cutting_fluid#:~:text=A%20typical%20CNC%20machine%20tool,and%20are%20usually%20water%2Dbased.

[10] <https://www.ups.com/us/en/help-center/packaging-and-supplies/special-care-shipments/firearms.page>

[11] <https://www.tzm.com/2021/03/25/boulder-colorado-officer-eric-talley-killed-gunman-ar-15-owner/>

[12] <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/18319/priorities-for-research-to-reduce-the-threat-of-firearm-related-violence>

[13] <https://www.heritage.org/firearms/commentary/why-these-defensive-uses-firearms-should-disarm-second-amendment-skeptics>

[14] https://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/1-Sherwood-Hill-Rd_Brewster_NY_10509_M41186-82847

[15] https://www.coldwellbankerhomes.com/ny/brewster/20-sherwood-hill/pid_24345369/

[16] <https://formlabs.com/blog/additive-manufacturing-vs-subtractive-manufacturing/>

[17] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBhOjWHbD6M>