

Shiv Durga Hindu Culture Center

501(c)(3) Nonprofit Charitable Organization
710 E. Ogden Avenue, Suite 200 Naperville, IL 60563
Ph: (630)544-6388. www.shivdurgahindutemple.org. info@shivdurgahindutemple.org

RE: City of Naperville Permit 19-0139

Dear Ms. Erin Venard, this is with reference to the notice dated July 3, 2019 from City of Naperville on a complaint that Shiv Durga Hindu Culture Center (SDHCC) is running a religious institution at the address located at 710 East Ogden Ave, Suite 200C, Naperville, IL 60563, which is not permitted in that Zone (Zone B3).

We have been instructed to apply for approval of a conditional use, which will require a public hearing before Planning and Zoning commission.

We would like to inform you that the mission of SDHCC is to provide religious and spiritual services to the Hindu diaspora and to promote educational, social, cultural values and interfaith outreach within the surrounding communities.

In this connection I want to bring to your attention the following facts in support our position that SDHCC is a cultural center and not a Hindu Temple in a strict sense.

- 1) The main activities of SDHCC include providing services like conducting Hindi classes, Yoga classes, Bharatanatyam, Bollywood dance, Camatic music and other such arts from Hindu culture.
- 2) While SDHCC does provide religious and spiritual services, it is not intended to function as a full-fledged Hindu Temple, but rather as a private prayer center.
- 3) At SDHCC members of the community participate in bhajans (devotional singing), prayers, spiritual activities- privately and quietly without disturbing the public peace and tranquility.
- 4) SDHCC is open for every member of general public" without restrictions as to reigion, caste, community or ethnicity.

When we applied for the permission we have clearly explained to the planning and zoning officers that we will have a prayer hall where idols of Hindu deities will be installed for private prayers for inculcating Hindu cultural and values in children. And the permission was given to run our cultural center at this location.

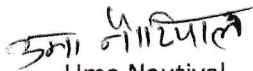
We strongly believe that Hindu culture is not a secular culture and can never be separated from religiosity. The worship of deities pervades every aspect of a Hindu culture whether education, music, art and craft, dance etc.

However, we can undertake to move out of this premises if we are given enough time to make alternative arrangements. We are seriously considering a plan for construction of a full-tledged Hindu temple by purchasing land in the area.

All this may take another 30 months. We request the City of Naperville to kindly rescind the notice given to us and kindly give us a time of 30 months from now to move out of the curent premises.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Uma Nautiyal

President

Shiv Durga Hindu Cultural Center

710 E. Ogden, #200C Naperville, IL 60563