

Not Finding a Welcome Here would be a Loss for Fullerton

Nearby neighbors have no problems with the six Zen Buddhist nuns or their mediation sessions held at their longtime home on Euclid.

The temple's 20 or so members who gather to meditate on Sunday mornings are mostly elderly people who fled their homes after it became too dangerous to stay for those who fought with the US in the Vietnam War.

Only one complaint has been filed in the past ten years -that coming from a person living outside the immediate area who objected to a religious institution located in a neighborhood.

Most religious institutions in Fullerton are located in neighborhoods and all require conditional use permits, but a city council 3-2 vote in August rejected granting the nuns a permit to continue practicing their religion at the location.

The council vote came after

another distant neighbor circulated a petition falsely claiming that the nuns were planning a multi-story expansion and that 29 people lived at the home. Signatures were collected from areas of Fullerton as far away as Skyline Drive, Brookdale Place and Commonwealth.

Most petition signers were unaware that there was a temple operating in the tidy home which has a large onsite parking area in the back.

Of the area religious institutions alerted to the plight of the temple, only the Congregational Church, located in a family home a few blocks south on Euclid, has so far stepped forward to support the nuns by responding with a letter to the city urging a reverse of the decision.

Though they would like to stay, barred from practicing their religion at their Fullerton home, the nuns are considering their options.



Fullerton resident OC Human Relations CEO Rusty Kennedy (top right) and OCHR Commissioner Bang Van Pham (second from top right) with Fullerton resident Sinh Dang (third from top right) enjoyed the hospitality at the NGOC Chieu Zen Temple on Euclid on a recent visit to offer support to the temple. Pictured are head nun and Dharma teacher Huong Giac (front left), temple secretary and nun Hue Nguyen (third on left), and the three youngest temple members.