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Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 11:49 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: General Plan Outreach/Guidance

Outreach Demographics

Based on the discussion on November 7, 2022 at the regular City Council meeting, the outreach to all communities within San Mateo is heavily unequal and shows a complete bias toward renters, people of color and low-income households. It is completely inadequate and ignores most communities west of the El Camino.

Reviewing the handout called the Draft Goals, Policies and Actions given by Deputy Director, Zach Dahl, I bring your attention to pages **12-14**. Looking at which communities got the most outreach, it is clear by the map, listings and goals – that this outreach to one community, mostly in the North Central area of San Mateo, is both exclusionary and deliberate.

The council is using this information to create the General Plan of San Mateo. How is it fair to all of San Mateans when only a certain demographic in a certain district is contacted and aggressively pursued and the rest of us are ignored?

Also, I am concerned about the influence non-profit 503(c)'s has over our city council. Whether it be non-profits such as the Housing Leadership Council or One San Mateo, or faith groups like the NAACP or the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition, they should have no greater input or voice in creating policy than any other citizen of San Mateo. Makes one wonder how they are able to stay tax exempt when they are so clearly active in politics. Their message is one of divisiveness and victimhood.

Please just look at page 13 of this document, and tell me this map does not show the high concentration of outreach and meetings in just one area of San Mateo. I am not speculating; it is there in color for all to see.

San Mateo's city outreach was and still is a joke. Please do not congratulate yourselves on doing a good job because you haven't. There is no reason that anyone working for a tax-exempt non-profit such as the Housing Leadership Council or One San Mateo should have greater access to democracy and the creation of housing policy in our city. Yet today in San Mateo, they do.

Many of us in the community do not care one iota what these non-profits and faith groups think. Nor should we have to. We demand the city council members stop continually referring to these organizations in discussions regarding housing policy in our city. They are not in a position of authority no matter how many times they present themselves that they are.

We want a representative government, not one that only takes the views of a small group of residents and organizations who share common political goals. Some on our city council need to remember that.

Christopher Conway

San Mateo, District 1