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Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Amourance Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; Richard Hedges <rhedges@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: March 6, 2023, Agenda Item 11: Measure Y

Hello City Council,

Measure Y has been under attack since it's passing, and for Agenda Item 11 for the March 6, 2023, meeting, it only seems fair to start with a clean slate and have a balanced discussion around how Measure Y does not impede what is needed for San Mateo in future housing plans, specifically:

HOUSING ELEMENT 2023: City staff have reached/exceeded their housing goals with Measure Y intact.

HOUSING ELEMENT 2030: Covid has changed our landscape completely. Commercial buildings sit empty. We have new housing that sits empty. Let's reexamine this later.

COMPROMISE TO ADD HEIGHTS (MAYBE 8 TO 12 STORY BUILDINGS): Pick up any paper and read articles about new housing, even in San Francisco, being 5 to 7 stories. Council is aware that 5 story buildings here in San Mateo have an easy option for developers to make them 7 stories overnight, like Kiku Crossing.

WE NEED MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Measure Y required at least 10% affordable housing before it was the thing to do. Council has recently made increases, but if there is ever an attempt to reduce the percentage, Y controls mean San Mateo could not go below 10% for affordability. And it has become evident we will never just build our way to affordability in this region.

Why are we really talking about Measure Y?

Let's talk about Bohannon developers and Hillsdale Mall. Just after Measure Y passed, Bohannon attended a meeting hosted by the HLC (Housing Leadership Council), along with (then) Councilmember Lee, San Francisco Senator Scott Wiener, and (then) councilmembers Bonilla and Goethals. It was a coalition of those working against Measure Y to figure out a way around the voters' decision.

Some Important quotes below (and pay particular attention to what Bonilla said):

Bohannon said, "We must continue the great work that brought us to the cusp of victory defeating Measure Y."

To which (then) Councilmember Lee said, "We will measure ourselves by the moments of joy and connection to our coalition...that is what is going to take us forward...I'm in this with you - the fight is not over."

(then) Councilmember Bonilla applauded the coalition's accomplishments and said, "That doesn't mean we don't have more to do...thanks for helping Amo get elected...That is going to help a LOT...We need now to turn our attention to organizing for the General Plan....So, we need to turn out activists and commenters - people need to speak at meetings and write letters..."

Senator Wiener said, "We are making progress...We honestly need more action at the state level. These kinds of things [local controls like Measure Y] shouldn't exist."

Then Wiener inserted himself into OUR city doings, creating a bill to specifically allow our Council to set aside the likes of Measure Y with a 4/5 vote. We find this route around democracy to be despicable.

Mayor Lee, your immersion in the fight against Measure Y, including your work for the counter measure, Measure R, coupled with your comment, "I'm in this with you, the fight is not over" at this HLC meeting should fully keep you from discussing or voting on anything that has to do with Measure Y. The right and honorable thing to do is recuse yourself.

The truth is that as part of the General Plan, Measure Y continues to allow substantial office, commercial and residential development while maintaining the community character and quality of life we all enjoy. Let the will of the people prevail. There is no true reason to remove Measure Y.

Thank you,

Connie Weiss
San Mateo Resident