

From: linda lara [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2023 5:04 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Measure Y

Dear Honorable Mayor Lee and San Mateo City Council Members,

I am writing to encourage your vote to maintain Measure Y criteria as voted for by San Mateo residents.

The people have spoken, they cast their votes to maintain the measure.

It seems not only are federal, nationwide elections at risk in our country, apparently our local community elections and wishes of the people, your constituents, are at serious risk as well. Our democracy at risk right here locally.

Why do we have city elections by the people if local government and leadership can overturn the results?

I personally would be more supportive of all of this massive development going on if it was truly creating more "affordable" housing for normal, everyday, moderate income residents. If only the mandates were for a much larger percent than 10% "affordable".

That 10% should be increased substantially higher to truly accommodate the need for average income citizens.

It makes no sense to attempt to house people when hundreds of units are built, like 150 to 960 for example and only 15 of the 150 need to be available for average income...or 96 of 960. That is ridiculous and will not quickly resolve our housing shortage for average income earners that deserve a home of their own just as much as top income earners.

These are people that work hard, pay taxes, raise their kids here, support our schools, serve and contribute to our community, yet they can't purchase a home here.

The massive ongoing, constant developments being approved are not really making a path to ownership for these families, nor leveling out, or dropping the insanely exorbitant, highly exaggerated property values in this area. Two bedroom, 1 bath fixer uppers should not sell for a million plus dollars...this is craziness.

Overbidding on homes should be outlawed. This being allowed falsely increases property values all the way around. If a house is for sale it should be sold for the list price or less, not hundreds of thousands of dollars above the list price just because a wealthier person has those funds and can beat out another buyer that actually has and can afford the asking price, but does not have the ability to overbid.

This practice is quickly creating false property values and the wide divide in our community, and a society of haves and have nots.

Average income earners have been able to purchase their own home for decades in this country, but now are prohibited because of lopsided property values, asking prices and overbidding.

For over 20 years San Mateo City leadership and planning commissions have been approving multiple, mixed use developments always with the promise that these developments will create an abundance of "affordable" (whatever the heck that is) housing.

We as your constituents and long time residents have not seen the abundance of that yet. Just more and more and more development and now you're possibly willing to turn over the will of the people to boot.

It would be really nice if you continue on this path of massive developments, especially in light of the Hillsdale Mall plans and the 900 plus units planned at Concar and Delaware, that you honor the height limits approved by your constituents you represent and also impose upon your developers that they must provide roof top grass, yards, play areas, gardens and maybe even pools and hot tubs, because all this development is eating up the real estate in this town which will prevent land available for more parks, recreation and entertainment.

The allowing of squeezing people into cramped small areas on top of each other packed in like sardines makes for no outdoor freedom and recreation and peace.

Our city will run out of park areas and nature and things for kids and people of all ages to do. We're losing our bowling alleys, skate parks, theaters, there is no live music downtown, no dance places etc.

And then we wonder why our youth bury themselves in social media, video games or drugs.

There's nothing for them to do and no where to go. Our parks and recreation facilities cannot handle it all, nor do many residents have access, either thru transportation or cost.

Developers should be required to incorporate recreation and social activities into their developments as well as rooftop parks.

Please maintain Measure Y as voted for by the public.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Linda Slocum Lara

62 year resident of San Mateo

