

**From:** Jennifer Martinez [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 3, 2023 2:26 PM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <[CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Clerk <[clerk@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:clerk@cityofsanmateo.org)>  
**Subject:** 4/3 Agenda Item #16: General Plan Update & Height Limits

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the San Mateo City Council,  
I am writing to express support for increased height and density in San Mateo's General Plan.

As I have said before, I feel very fortunate to have lived in San Mateo for the past 9 years. However, I am acutely aware that were it not for significant luck and the fact that my household consists of 3 full-time working adults, we would not be able to afford to live here.

So many who serve our community - essential workers, teachers, service providers, childcare providers, seniors, to name a few - either live in unaffordable (and too often, unsafe) conditions or travel long distances to work or visit family here. This is because the city has blocked opportunities to build housing that would benefit people at a range of income levels - namely, multi-family housing across the city.

Every piece of land in our city is precious and should be used efficiently and effectively to house people at all income levels, create economic opportunities, and protect our environment. Current R1 zoning and height and density limits prevent us from doing this. Current restrictions against high-density housing development are a remnant of old racial and classist belief systems that should be rejected on moral grounds and should also be rejected on practical grounds.

**Despite what we might hear in city council meetings or in public comment, the vast majority of San Mateans (63% according to the True North survey conducted in 2022), support heights up to 12 stories. Please take seriously that the majority of voices are not being heard in the public debates about this issue because they are too busy working and taking care of their families to participate in this kind of forum - a challenge made even more acute by high housing costs and restrictive community inclusion.**

With this in mind, I strongly encourage you to pursue changes to the General Plan that will allow for greater height and density so that we can adequately meet the housing and environmental challenges we face and so we can create the kind of vibrant, inclusive, sustainable San Mateo that so many current residents want and that future residents need.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Martinez  
[REDACTED]