

From: Chris Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 9:16 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: April 3rd meeting

Dear City Council -

I wanted to add my comments to the list of people in our community who are scratching our heads as we watched Monday night's (April 3) proceedings. As someone said, it was Groundhog Day all over again.

The citizen voters in our community who follow this closely thought the entire issue of Measure Y was settled and then out of the grave it came alive again.

We learned about the "Robert's Rule" and who can bring back an issue that was thought to have been settled by vote. Therefore, late into the evening we learned it was Mr. Hedges who did this based on his own self-disclosure after the public comment period. What I didn't get a clear answer on is why he did this and the current procedures being used to ignore the will of the voters and continue to attack building guidelines set by Measure Y.

Things are getting curiously and curiously down there on 20th Avenue. We have defeated Measure R, we passed Measure Y and we just can't seem to get the council to put this issue to bed or quite believe it is law. It seems to many of us in the community that there are certain council members who do not like the answers they are being given and continue to ask the question over and over again until they get an answer they want.

Lastly, I am tired of the punitive steps being threatened by our own state government. It is really infuriating. Pro-density and max-height advocates continue to think the state is omnipotent and we must surrender all local control to the Almighty state or be punished by withholding our own tax monies from us. Let's at least not continue to be scared by the man behind the curtain known as HCD. I am tired of our city's democracy being taken away from us through the mere hint of litigation or punishment. Whether it be district elections or now local control being threatened, at some point we are going to have to push back against this continuous threat of our local rights to the state government in Sacramento or from overly litigious attorneys.

As a Republican who strongly believes in limited government, it frightens me to the core to see our state government treat its own citizens with so much dominance, vitriol and hatred. For those of you on the council who may believe otherwise, we are not as stupid and ill-informed as you obviously think we are. Count me in as someone who is following this very closely.

If you want buy-in from your constituents, stop obfuscating, listen to the answers you are given and reach out to the communities whose neighborhoods are being affected. Clearly, the 25th Avenue community was not adequately informed which was evident during the public comment period.

Thank you,

Chris Conway

District 1