

From: Keith Weber <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 2:38 PM

To: Alex Khojikian <akhojikian@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Richard Hedges <rhedges@cityofsanmateo.org>; Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: 10/2/23 Council Mtg., Item 8, General Plan 2040 Staff Report

Dear City Manager Alex Khojikian,

Welcome to the City of San Mateo. We haven't yet met, but I have heard very good things about you and hope we have a chance to meet soon.

I was troubled by two statements in the Community Design and Historic Resources Element section of the staff report for tonights 10/2/23 City Council meeting on the 2040 General Plan. Two of the six bullet points noted as "emerging themes" - specifically "*do not designate new historic districts*" and requiring "*2/3s approval for historic districts*"- may have been expressed by a few individuals, but to identify these statements as "themes," stretches credulity. Where did these statements originate and why should they be considered themes?

I really don't know, but they may have originated with Planning Commissioner Seema Patel, who has taken to social media in an effort to influence public opinion and encourage opposition to historic resource policies and single family neighborhoods. Ms. Patel is trying to be both an activist pushing her agenda on social media, and a planning commissioner representing official City policy. The fact that her personal antipathy towards historic preservation is presented in a staff report as legitimate community "themes," unfairly biases the report and misleads the City Council. Please consider deleting them and reissuing the Staff Report. Consider replacing them with a theme that more accurately reflects the overarching desire of the majority of the community as expressed in the many public comments, and in the current and proposed General Plans:

- **San Mateans value their historic neighborhoods and wish to preserve them.**

Additionally, I would like to echo other community members asking the City Council to incorporate a new policy to align San Mateo's historic preservation policies with state and federal law (please see Attachment 3, Revisions to the Community Design and Historic Preservation Element):

New Policy CD 5 - Add language: *Implement a comprehensive approach to historic preservation based on **conformance with state and federal laws and CEQA**, community input and best practices from State and federal agencies and to find the right balancing between preservation with other important priorities such as providing new homes and supporting local businesses, **especially small businesses**.*

Sincerely,
Keith Weber
San Mateo

Cc: San Mateo City Council