

From: Chris Cooper [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 3:35 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: General Plan tonight at City Council

My family and I support historic preservation in San Mateo.

- Our historic downtown is at risk if contributors to historic resources are not put back in the definition of historic resources.
- I respectfully request the City Council reinstate contributors into General Plan Policy CD 5.3 Historic Resources Definition before it is adopted tonight. Retaining contributor buildings as important components of historic districts is essential to the long term economic and social health, vitality, and well-being of the Downtown and the city at large.
- Without the inclusion of "contributors" in the General Plan, the character and integrity of the Downtown Historic District is at risk. Of the 57 buildings in the district, 28 (over half) are contributors. Without those contributors, we risk losing not just tangible buildings of our past, but the feeling and the essence of what we love most about the heart of downtown San Mateo.
- Up until now, most new development projects have been outside the Downtown Historic District boundaries. But without "contributors" in the General Plan text, it removes the protections afforded by The Secretary of the Interior's Standards, putting contributor buildings within the district at risk of insensitive redevelopment. Not protecting contributors, but only individually-eligible and/or listed buildings, risks the loss of our historic downtown, its character, integrity, and sense of place.
- Contributors are what make up the majority of the patchwork quilt that is a historic district. If you protect only listed/eligible, but not the contributors, your quilt begins to tear and unravel until it is in tatters and unrecognizable. In other words, contributor buildings *are* critical and inherent to what makes a district historic. If the General Plan "functionally elevates" the status of contributors, the quilt remains whole, its design intact.

I trust the Council will take appropriate actions to protect our history, our downtown, and our neighborhoods, all of which help to make San Mateo special and desirable.

Respectfully,

Chris Cooper 古博

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