

From: sasaro Asaro <>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:03 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Measure Y

Council Members,
In regards to your December meeting regarding Measure Y, it's becoming clearer each day that, if voting had any impact on the issues, it wouldn't be allowed.
A concerned citizen,
Sam Asaro

From: [gillianbrown](#) >
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:59 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Closed door meeting

What a shame that you are not respecting the wishes of the voters. If only you could live up to the ideals of full transparency in government. There is a whiff of Trump about what you have done.

William J. Cendak
120 - 30th Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403

San Mateo City Council
330 West 20TH Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403

January 11, 2021

Re: Measure Y

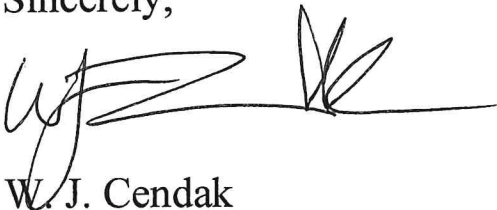
Dear Council Members,

I find it completely unethical that Council members Bonilla, Goethals and Lee would attend a virtual meeting with representatives of Bohannon, HLC, and State Senator Wiener concerning the failed attempt to win the NO vote for Measure Y. You should be ashamed of yourselves!

The city council is elected to be caretakers and carry out the will of the residents of the city of San Mateo, not to be hand maidens for developers and outside special interest groups, or a State Senator hell bent on Manhattanizing every city in California (Maybe he should have moved to New York City from New Jersey instead of San Francisco).

In my 40 years as a supervisor and contractor in the construction industry I never accepted a gift from vendors or individuals connected to the industry as I knew once you accept a gift, the giver may think they own you, some may even call you a prostitute. I would think you are all above that.....right?

Sincerely,



W. J. Cendak

RECEIVED

JAN 14 2021

Office of the City Manager

From: CONNIE DAVIS < >
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:48 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Shame on you

Time to represent the citizens of San Mateo and not Bohannon and wiener!!!

From: Susan Fernandez < >
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:21 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Measure Y - results denied!

I don't understand why the issue of height limits is still being discussed since the voting indicated Measure Y won. Is the City Council and big business trying to circumvent the results of the vote?

From: Devra Harris <

Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 10:45 PM

To: Drew Corbett <dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org>; City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Concerns re: Council Members - include in Council mtg. packet 1/19/21

To: Drew Corbett, City Manager and our sitting San Mateo City Council Members,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of San Mateo, a longtime resident and a supporter of the officially certified Measure Y. After news of a Housing Leadership Council “decompression” Meeting coming to light, I am struck with many questions regarding whether or not those elected officials in attendance are acting on behalf of the entire community they have sworn to serve. My concerned questions are as follows:

- Why are our City Council Members involved in a closed door meeting with proponents of the defeated Measure R; the agenda of said meeting highlighting and strategizing to undermine the core values of Measure Y?
- Why are our City Council members joining in with a coalition “organizing for the General Plan” to subvert the limits and mandates set in Measure Y?
- Why are our City Council Members supporting a coalition that plans to push through bills with State Legislators that would directly override Measure Y, a measure that won the vote amongst our San Mateo communities?
- Why are our City Council Members working alongside the Housing Leadership Council to explore litigation avenues to challenge the “legality” of Measure Y?

While 5 of our elected officials, Council Members who are installed as civil servants FIRST who should do what they can to uphold the will of their constituents, were in attendance at the “closed door” meeting with those who lead the push for Measure R, only three were brazen enough to speak out in support of the failed measure and insight direct opposition to the measure that was chosen by the people of San Mateo. Suggesting that the “fight is not over” and that the “tide is turning in our favor” undermines the very nature of a free and fair election — the results are in and certified. If there was a question as to which measure “won”, a recount could have been called for. Measure Y won the vote and now, it seems, at least three of our elected City Council Members are looking for loopholes to overturn or manipulate Measure Y.

Regardless of whether or not a violation of the Brown Act is found, this meeting has brought about a level of mistrust in our current City Council. As a concerned member of our community and supporter of Measure Y, I am no longer allowed to feel secure that our city officials will honor the election results. Instead, we are forced now to be on “watch” and to continue to monitor groups like the Housing Leadership Council (comprised of non-residents and big business developers) in order to insure that the mandates and limits set by Measure Y are upheld. Those members from our City Council who were outspoken supporters of the HLC need to remember that they serve San Mateo Residents above their own personal agendas.

I will attend the City Council meeting tomorrow, hopefully more light will be shed on my concerns.

Regards,
Devra Harris

CC: City Clerk, Patrice Olds

From:**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 2:05 PM**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>**Cc:** Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>**Subject:** Measure Y, the General Plan and the HLC meeting

Dear Council members

I happened recently to come across a video sponsored by the HLC. It really looked like a conspiracy by three city council members, a state legislator from San Francisco (not from San Mateo County) and a billionaire developer to undermine Measure Y. Why are they having this meeting in private outside of a council meeting without formally notifying the general public. Where is the transparency? We really don't need this as a city. Enough is going on in Washington DC to undermine the law.

My comments/questions for you are:

1. How can there can be any trust in the General Plan process, given their recorded comments at the HLC meeting. The General Plan process should be fair and allow residents to fully explore and help in shaping the future of San Mateo. HOW CAN THEY GUARANTEE THIS NOW given their discussion at the HLC meeting
2. Why is San Mateo not pushing back against assigned housing numbers?. Other cities have pushed back against the assigned housing numbers – but not San Mateo. WHY NOT?
3. Upzoning of single family neighborhoods is not necessary to meet current state requirements
4. There is no need to expand existing Study Areas or otherwise encroach on single family neighborhoods.
5. If you really want to improve affordable housing, require the developers who build new housing to increase significantly the portion allocated for low income people.
6. And now that a lot of people are leaving the bay area and rents are dropping up to 30% there will be a lot more affordable housing and a lot of empty housing for some time. Statewide rent control will ensure that those rents stay at relatively low levels. But the small landlords will suffer.

Thanks for taking the time to listen and hopefully take actions that will remedy this situation for all the voters who lawfully passed Measure Y instead of nuturing a civil war.

Best

Gary Isoardi

From: JANE JAMES <>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:52 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: polds@cityofsanmateo.org
Subject: Council meeting today - Increased Housing

To all,

When making decisions about future housing increases, consider that CA is already experiencing electricity shortages and water shortages. PG&E notices encourage minimizing electricity use during the very hours people need it most, and this year already we are in yet another water shortage situation. The traffic in some San Mateo areas is dreadful. Just because bureaucrats insist upon thousands of new units being built, does not mean their inflated numbers should be accepted without question.

Many people voted for Measure Y and their position on housing density should be kept in mind.

Thank you,
Jane B. James
San Mateo property owner and tax payer

From: Anna Kuhre < >

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:06 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>; Drew Corbett <dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: HLC Meeting

Dear Mayor Rodriguez and Council Members,

Thank you to the HLC for releasing the video of their meeting. The comments clearly demonstrate how three Councilmembers, Bonilla, Goethals and Lee have turned their backs on the voters in San Mateo. They are a part of a coalition that excludes the supporters of Measure Y, and they continue to talk about working against Measure Y, including organizing opposition for the general plan. Since Council Member Bonilla made it clear that they plan on stacking the deck at the General Plan Meetings by, "turning out activists and commenters " there is no faith in a fair process.

This is clearly the BACK ROOM DEAL mentality. The public trust is non existent.

Sincerely,

Anna Kuhre

From: landucci < >

Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 12:25 AM

To: Eric Rodriguez <erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org>; Eric Rodriguez <erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org>; Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>; Diane Papan <dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org>; Joe Goethals <jgoethals@cityofsanmateo.org>; Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: HLC video shows a violation of the Brown Act

San Mateo City Council Members,

The General Plan need to follow what the voters said: Measure Y passed.

City Council members must be responsive to what voters want.

We are watching your reactions.

Thank you,

Al Landucci

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrea McCutchin < >

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 1:52 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Patrice Olds
<polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Council members violating Brown act

Yes, the private HLC meeting that was not available for the public to attend, should not have been attended by elected council members. I believe council was elected by ALL residents, to represent us all. I also feel that the very aggressive San Mateo growth plan for our future should be re-evaluated for post Covid contraction, and redesigned since the passage of measure Y.

Sincerely, Andrea McCutchin

From: Genel Morgan <
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:31 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: polds@cityofsanmaeo.org
Subject: City council meeting with No on Y group

Dear City Council Members,

I watched the YouTube video today taken at the meeting City Council members attended with the No on Y group and local and state politicians.

While Measure Y only won by a handful of votes, it still WON. Greater than 50% of those voting supported Measure Y. I felt during this meeting that those who voted in favor of Measure Y were not respected. Many people spoke about how people who voted for Measure Y did not understand what they were voting for. That is not true! People in the video also made inaccurate claims about the affordable housing part of Measure Y.

Measure Y was a grassroots, citizen supported initiative. Despite the city council putting roadblocks in the way of getting the initiative on the ballot and the wealth of politicians as well as the city council opposing the measure, it WON!

Just because the outcome of the election wasn't as No on Y advocates wanted, it is not appropriate that the city council now work with that group to find a work around to negate the result of the election. Adjusting the General Plan was disgusted a lot in that video!

I find the actions of Scott Wiener (in the past and his plan for the future) to remove local control over building very upsetting.

Personally, I am not against building in San Mateo, but I want to see responsible construction (which I don't trust corporate builders to do if given free reign). I want to see infrastructure addressed in relation to any new construction. Building high rises with the reliance on public transit to mitigate traffic needs to include discussion of improving public transit as well as expanding water and sewer service.

City Council members attending such a meeting certainly creates the wrong appearance. The City Council SHOULD represent ALL San Mateo residents and work toward creating an atmosphere of mediation between these two factions. Attending this meeting gives the message that the City Council will ignore the will of 50% of those who voted on Measure Y and I for one find that upsetting. I will remember when city council seats come up for election again.

Sincerely
Genel Morgan
San Mateo

From: Lynda Paffrath <
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 2:31 PM
To: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Measure "Y"

I do not want the election vote on Measure "Y" overturned. It was passed in a fair and legitimate election and should not be tossed out on the whim of three council members.

Lynda Twyman Paffrath
San Mateo, CA

From: Steele, Gary <>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:58 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Honor the passage of Measure Y!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: Aimee WCrollerskate < >

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:46 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Re: Inappropriate comments of Council Members against residents now confirmed. Take appropriate action.

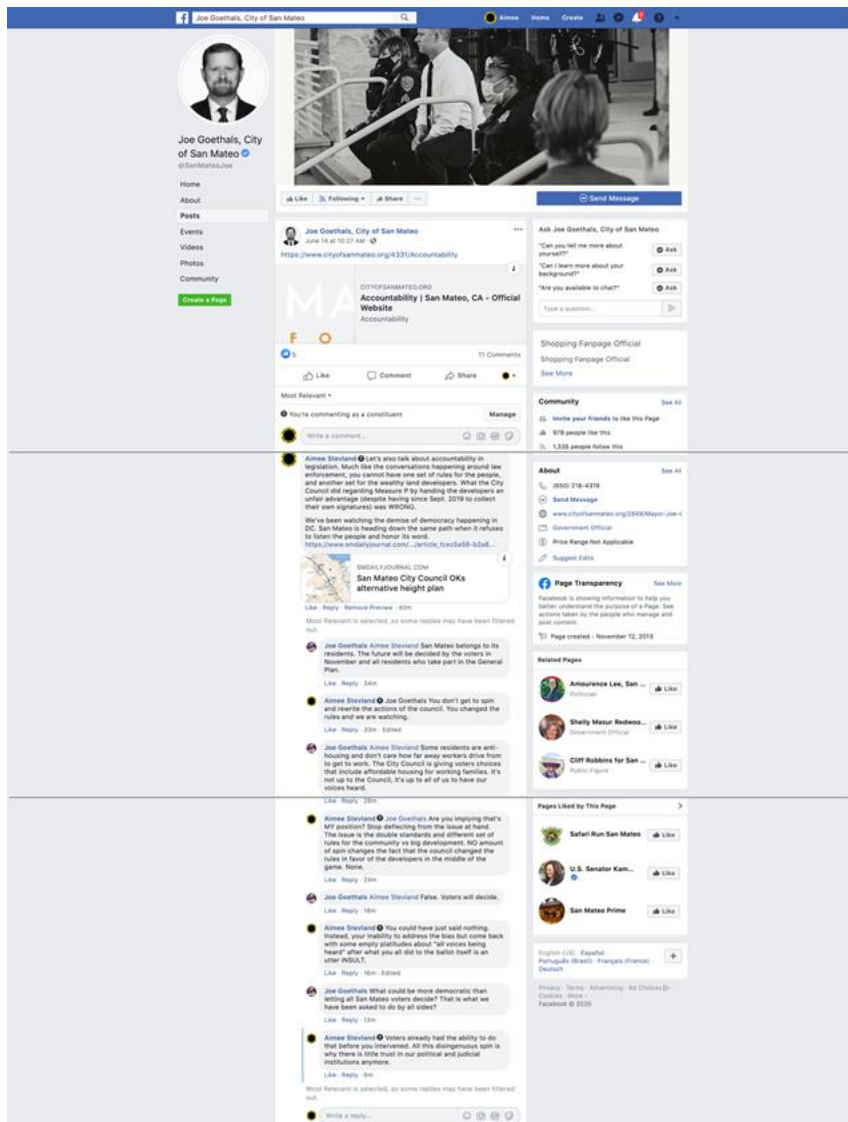
In addition, I'd also like to share this previous public exchange with Council Member Goethals.

As a member of this community I will not stand for being gaslighted by our leaders.

In this exchange, he adamantly remarks that the most democratic thing to do would be to let the voters decide. Well, they did.

He has not even acted in accord with *his own* spin and his actions need to be called out.

We are paying attention.



Regards,
Aimee Stevland

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 10:31 AM Aimee WCrollerskate < > wrote:
Dear City Council Members,

I continue to be utterly astonished at the disregard some of our city council members have for the residents of this community and their voices, made apparent in November's election.

As I've written before, it's highly inappropriate that 3 City Council-members are meeting with developers and pro-development advocacy groups behind closed doors. **We now know by their comments that they have displayed active intent in working AGAINST the will of the people. (See below)**

We all have concerns about the availability of AFFORDABLE homes in San Mateo, but right now I'm more concerned about councilmembers prioritizing their own agendas or corporate buddies over serving this community. We recently voted corruption and self-serving representatives out of the highest offices of our government - it's terribly sad to see this behavior right in our own backyard.

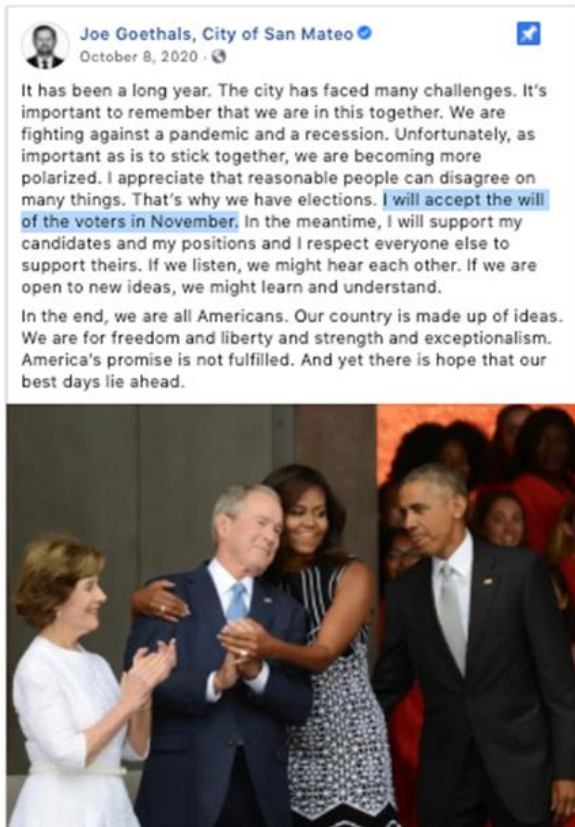
Do these comments really seem like people who respect the voices of our community and the results of our election?

Councilmember Bonilla:

- "I want to applaud (HLC organizers) for inviting us to be here...to celebrate, really, what we have accomplished - which was a lot of really good work. That doesn't mean we don't have more to do."
- "We need now to turn our attention to organizing for the General Plan....So, we need to turn out activists and commenters - people need to speak at meetings and write letters..."
- (Directed to Sen. Hill and Assemblyman Mullin) "Jerry, Kevin, thanks for helping Amo get elected...That is going to help a LOT."

Councilmember Goethals:

- "I'm glad to be a part of the (HLC/No on Y) coalition...We're winning. The tide is turning in our favor."
- "Progress, success, victory - all of those things feel like where we're headed."
- Councilmember Goethals has also made a big show on facebook regarding his respect for the will of the people. Unfortunately recent actions and subsequent attempts to spin his actions have shown he clearly does not and will not.



Councilmember Lee:

- "We will measure ourselves by the moments of joy and connection to our coalition...that is what is going to take us forward."
- "I'm in this with you - the fight is not over."

Quite honestly, these members should consider resigning as they have completely broken the trust of the community and obviously have no intent on serving any one other than themselves or their big money, corporate developer friends.

Regards,
Aimee Stevland
San Mateo Resident

--

Aimee "White Chocolate" Bruckner

From: Lisa Taner <I>

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 11:12 AM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Tonight's Meeting Agenda Items: Brown Act Violation Investigation/Impacts to General Plan Process

Councilmembers Goethals, Bonilla and Lee,

I've watched the HLC video of the meeting where each of you spoke. I'm almost at a loss to find words for this situation. I don't know what's worse, your pride in being a part of a coalition that is obviously not representative of tens of thousands of San Mateans or the fact that you are breaking the hearts of your constituency.

Councilmember Bonilla, when you campaigned, you promised to work hard for the neighborhoods. Councilmember Lee, when you campaigned, you spoke of your ability to bring people together. Councilmember Goethals, just 10 days ago you stated that the public trust is very important. Yet here we are.

You can only operate in the darkness for so long, and if a picture is worth a 1,000 words, how many words is this video worth? I guess at least as many as you'll be hearing from the residents as they also view it. We will remember your words today, tomorrow, and all the days that follow.

While I fully expect that your coalition will come to your defense and push for business as usual, I want you to consider this. We didn't just *lose* our faith and trust. You *removed* our faith and trust. How can you fix that? How can we even begin to move forward from *this* to think that we can work collaboratively on a General Plan process that is committed to serving the residents – **the residents** - of the City of San Mateo?

Thank you.

Lisa Taner
Resident

From: Lisa Vande Voorde <

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 2:30 PM

To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Tonight's City Council Meeting Agenda -- Brown Act Violation & General Plan Input

Dear Members of the San Mateo City Council,

I just finished watching the December 9, 2020 Housing Leadership Council Post-Election Decompression Meeting, in which Councilmembers Joe Goethals, Rick Bonilla, and Amourance Lee were in attendance and also made remarks. I was outraged not just by what might be perceived as a Brown Act violation, but by how OUR City Council is so closely aligned with an organization whose leadership (Evelyn Stivers and Leona Tanjuatco-Ross) does not even LIVE IN OUR CITY, and whose remarks clearly do not align with the will of the voters of San Mateo. Apparently, these three City Council Members have no respect for the 23,038 Yes On Y voters who passed Measure Y, and no commitment to honoring those San Mateans that they were elected to represent. Yes, it was a close vote. But if it were not for the Bohannon-backed Measure R confusing voters with a very similar ballot measure, Measure Y may have passed by many more votes and provided a more compelling mandate. But that's not the point. Measure Y won, it was NOT a tie. And our elected City Council members have a duty to honor that vote and FIND A WAY to work it into the General Plan process as we move forward. As a 30-year resident of San Mateo, a member of YOUR constituency, this is what I expect.

I will attend tonight's meeting, but rather than speaking, I ask you to please consider this letter as public comment. I hope you will take these comments to heart, with my thanks.

Yours truly,

Lisa Vande Voorde

From: weller323 <
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:03 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Concerns re General Plan

I am dismayed that three city council members have shaken residents' trust in the transparency and honesty of decision making regarding San Mateo's General Plan. Their comments as participants in the HLC celebratory non-victory party are worrisome in that they are still fighting to overturn Measure Y, ignoring the outcome of the Nov. 3 election. Sounds shockingly familiar to what's happened re our presidential election.

Local leaders should step back and consider future changes in housing and commercial development needs brought on by consequences of Covid 19 and the challenging business climate in California. For rent signs in front of apartment buildings, for lease signs in commercial windows, and the sad emptying of Mr. Bohannon's Hillsdale Mall all indicate shifting economics in San Mateo. Plan A looks out 10 years----that is far enough.

The city has at least two major office/retail/housing projects heading towards construction already. I fully support affordable housing as mandated by Measure Y. The city council can see that additional affordable housing becomes a feature of these projects.

Sensible growth will be welcomed, but higher density for the sake of developers' pocketbooks will not. Thoughtful, transparent decision making by San Mateo's city council will be applauded, but behind-the-scenes deal making for personal gain of whatever nature will be held accountable.

Sincerely,
Nancy Weller

From: San Mateans for Responsive Government SMRG <limitheights2018@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 2:40 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Re: Items #17 & #20 on Tonight's Agenda

Dear Mayor & City Council,

San Mateans for Responsive Government (SMRG) notes that there are 2 separate, but related, items on tonight's agenda: Potential violation of Brown Act and General Plan-Next Steps.

PUBLIC TRUST - is the important connecting link between these two items. It has been disappointing, but perhaps not surprising, that no one from the City Council has reached "across the aisle" to us to acknowledge Measure Y's passage, and to confirm the Council's commitment to the General Plan update being the place where changes to heights, densities and affordable housing would be discussed and perhaps modified. The Council has promised that the General Plan process would be fair and allow residents to fully help in shaping the future of San Mateo.

SMRG has always supported the General Plan update as the place where potential changes to the height, density and affordable housing requirements of Measure Y would be debated. Measure Y assures that the residents and taxpayers of San Mateo will have a seat at the development table normally dominated by the special interests who financially benefit from land use changes. The Council promised that the General Plan process would be fair and allow residents to fully help in shaping the future of San Mateo.

Yet now, how can residents have faith in a fair General Plan process when councilmembers talk about continuing to work against Measure Y at a meeting that was not open to the public. At this meeting hosted by HLC, a special interest advocacy group, Councilmember Goethals said he was "glad to be a part of the ...No on Y coalition." Councilmember Bonilla encouraged marching the No on Y campaign right into the General Plan update process. And Councilmember Lee said "...I'm in this with you - the fight is not over."

There has also been talk about including single family residential neighborhoods in the General Plan Study Areas, a threat that promotes community divisiveness not inclusiveness. However, the excellent staff report for the General Plan makes clear that up-zoning single family residential neighborhoods is unnecessary to meet current and future state housing requirements through 2040 in all currently outlined General Plan scenarios.

SMRG suggests that the focus of the General Plan discussions should be on identifying the specific areas where changes to heights and densities will result in good projects that address community needs, especially affordable housing. SMRG also suggests that ABAG RHNA housing targets, created during one of the Bay Area's most extended economic booms, are no longer realistic in a post-pandemic world. Therefore, we ask that the City of San Mateo, like many other municipalities, push back against housing targets that have increased more than 250%.

In the end, the General Plan update process should seek quality not only quantity. It is an opportunity for the community to guide new development towards better quality and a more vigorous urban fabric by using improved urban design guidelines, a menu of architectural styles and a robust respect for the existing built environment. We ask you to put down your No on Y pitchforks. Let's work on this together.

MICHAEL WEINHAUER

San Mateans for Responsive Government (SMRG)
 FPPC ID #1402267

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