

POST-PACKET PUBLIC COMMENTS

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE SUBMITTED
AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE AGENDA PACKET AND
PUBLISHED AT 4PM ON THE DAY OF THE COUNCIL
MEETING

From: [Jennifer Chen](#)
To: [Martin McTaggart](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed BID Rate Schedule for Downtown San Mateo
Date: Monday, October 17, 2022 3:38:01 PM

Please add to public comment

From: Wendy Klein [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 2:43 PM
To: Amourence Lee <alee@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Jennifer Chen <jchen@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Re: Proposed BID Rate Schedule for Downtown San Mateo

Dear Jennifer and Amourence:

Thanks for taking the time to meet with me today. I wanted to follow up our conversation with a few final points:

1) Even though I'm relieved that my fees will not go up to \$800 (as I previously thought based on how the proposal was written), I do not think it is prudent to pass a rate hike that more than triple what my business has to pay to the downtown association (from \$66 to \$200). For a small business like mine which is not really in the downtown region, I would be fine with a 50% hike and pay the minimum of \$100. So if the proposal goes through at the higher level, I will be working with others in my area to petition against it (last time we had quite a few businesses which opposed any rate increase).

2) I really liked Amourence's idea of seeing exactly how the association helps businesses like ours which are outside the main district (between 1st and 5th and El Camino and B). Again, I haven't seen any evidence of how its work supports my business since we opened in 2008 and until I can see quantifiable benefit, I need to focus my attention on keeping my business in place and hopefully getting it back to where it was pre-COVID. I think one of the biggest challenges this association faces is that it's up to the business to figure out how the association can help it versus real outreach - I've only been contacted one time by the association back in 2017 when they knew I opposed the rate increase. I have never been asked to give input or ideas even though this association is supposed to be supporting my business. Since most of the focus is on the real downtown, it may just make more sense to redistrict it and exclude the businesses on B street south of 5th Avenue.

By the way, I did read the consultant's proposal and the goal is to increase the budget from less than \$200K to \$350K - it seems like most of the additional funds will be spent on hiring an executive director versus using volunteers - again, I understand why a more professional approach is needed but how will this translate to supporting all of the businesses in the area.

All the best, Wendy