
From: Jonathan Singh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 8:17 PM
To: *DL_City_Council <DL_City_Council@emeryville.org>; Sheri Hartz <shartz@emeryville.org>
Subject: [External] 5/18/21 Council Study Session - Item 6.1 Comment

Dear members of the Council,

My name is Jonathan Singh. I am a resident of Emeryville and I rent my home. I would like to offer input regarding the study session on objective standards for approving multifamily and mixed-use projects.

I think that the Council should maximize the flexibility of design standards. We should give broad guidance to future project applicants and developers, rather than set specific requirements like mullions in windows or the precise spacing between street trees. As technology and aesthetic preferences change, we must ensure that Emeryville can adapt. Expressing high-level goals and preferences will save time for the Council, PlanCom, and city staff since they won't need to evaluate minute design details in future projects. We should ensure that Emeryville's growth is not constrained by rigid design requirements

I believe City staff should spend less time on reviewing design standards and other non-objective standards. This policy should continue even past any expiration of state housing laws like HAA, SB330, and SB35 which prevent Emeryville from denying applications based on subjective standards. The City Council and Planning Commission should mainly give non-binding recommendations or feedback regarding aesthetics of future projects.

I applaud the Planning Commission and staff for noting that the primary goal of this exercise is to create more housing. I ask the Council to take actions that promote the creation of more housing in Emeryville. Our city has high-paying jobs, good schools, access to transit, and a central location in the Bay Area. I want more people to be able to live here. We should provide clear guidance that Emeryville is a city which welcomes growth and change.

Thank you,
Jonathan

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Jonathan Singh
Email: [REDACTED]