

SAN RAFAEL CHAMBER

WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY • CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

May 27, 2020

City of San Rafael
City Councilmembers
1400 5th Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

Re: Deny Appeal of 104 Shaver St. Project Approval

Dear Mayor Phillips and City Council:

On behalf of the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce, which represents nearly 625 Marin County employers with over 26,000 employees across 25 different industry sectors, I write to request the City Council reject the appeal for the housing project that the Planning Commission approved on 104 Shaver Street. The project replaces a single-family house at the corner of Shaver and Third Street with a much needed 7-unit apartment building. The new housing will be across the street from another apartment building; and is a welcomed addition to the housing needs in San Rafael.

As you are well aware, the San Rafael Chamber has made the production of new housing units a top priority focus and supports new housing production attainable by our local workforce. We recognize that the need for more workforce housing is crucial to securing our economic future. The Downtown area is an ideal place for this type of project; it is located near transit, near jobs, and the project has been designed to fit very well in the neighborhood and does not overburden the block by adding an additional 6 units.

As you also know, this project was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission where it went through rigorous review by not only that Committee but through the Design Review Board and City staff. It has also gained great community support and has given the city a blue-print for creating small infill housing projects.

We strongly urge you to reject the appeal of 104 Shaver St. housing project and allow it to move forward. The city is in desperate need for these types of projects and this particular development is well thought out and is in a location that desperately needs it.

Sincerely,



Joanne Webster
President and CEO
cc Board of Directors via email

Corrected: Appeal regarding the Shaver/3rd Street property in San Rafael

Mollee Franklin <[REDACTED]>

Thu 5/28/2020 9:27 PM

To: City Clerk <City.Clerk2@cityofsanrafael.org>

Cc: Donni Uzarski <[REDACTED]>

Resending with corrections to street names:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to add my voice to the many concerned neighbors regarding the proposed apartment building at the corner of 3rd and Shaver Streets in downtown San Rafael. We live at 1532 3rd Street, just a half block up from the property in question. My family and I are extremely concerned about the impacts of this project, both safety and environmental. There have been multiple accidents at this intersection- with two occurring in just the last week. Over the 16 years that we have lived in our home, we have witnessed multiple traffic accidents here - with the worst one being a pedestrian hit and run over in that intersection. All of our neighbors have had cars damaged from being hit by either speeding cars and drunk drivers or sideswiped on Shaver because the street is extremely narrow. My car was hit and totaled in front of our home in October from a drunk driver in a car speeding down the hill on Third Street. We don't let our children cross alone at the intersection of 3rd and Shaver because of the multiple times we have almost been hit by cars speeding through trying to make both of those lights. This section of Third Street is a racetrack and I am always shocked by the rate of speed that cars pass our house day and night. To add in even more cars parking on the streets and turning out into traffic from that corner is terrifying.

For ANYONE to tell the city - or the citizens of San Rafael - that there is not a parking issue in this neighborhood is unbelievably ridiculous. All you need to do is drive by on any given day of the week and you will see how packed with cars this neighborhood is. And that's right now - before this huge project has even been started!!

The idyllic drawing of the proposed project is laughable. The drawing depicts wide sidewalks and implies spaciousness but this could not be further from the truth for this particular location. I understand a developer wanting to turn a profit but there needs to be much more analysis and assessing regarding the viability and safety regarding the size of what should be built at this location. I struggle to understand how the city granted the variances for this project without more thorough investigation.

Sincerely,

Mollee Franklin
Dennis Sanner
Finnley Sanner
Poppy Sanner