

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 9:00 AM

To: Distrib- City Clerk <City.Clerk@cityofsanrafael.org>

Cc: mpera@marinij.com; Kate Colin <Kate.Colin@cityofsanrafael.org>; Maika Llorens Gulati <Maika@cityofsanrafael.org>; Eli Hill <Eli.Hill@cityofsanrafael.org>; Maribeth Bushey <Maribeth.Bushey@cityofsanrafael.org>; Rachel Kertz <Rachel.Kertz@cityofsanrafael.org>

Subject: 160 Mitchell Blvd

To: City Clerk | Please forward onto the Commissioners.
City Council is CC'd

Dear Commissioners,

After reading Matthew Pera's article ["San Rafael apartment building proposed in business zone"](#), I was quite outraged. It took me a bit to gather my thoughts in order to write this letter to you.

Why outraged? Because of this statement - "As soon as you introduce housing into the industrial zoning, eventually housing will take over,"

As residents of CA, and more narrowly, the bay area and the county of Marin, we are faced with the greatest crisis of our time. And that crisis is not COVID-19. It's the lack of housing. At a time where our housing shortage is set to displace millions of Californians, using the statement of "eventually housing will take over" to negatively evaluate a housing proposal is preposterous. I don't think we are truly grasping the facts here -

The fact is that we urgently need housing. Another fact is that we have an empty office building in the midst of a once in a life-time shift to remote work. And finally, we have the worst housing shortage recorded in the history of the state. The only choice is to build our way out of this.

To further address "housing takeover" - Marin County is a magical place. Every human deserves to live here. So do we really need "food manufacturing, candle making, furniture repair and packaging businesses" within 5 miles of the downtown of the most populous city of this magical place? Or should we let more human lives experience what it's like to live here?

On behalf of those who live here and those who want to live here - When reviewing this project, I implore you to consider the urgency of our housing needs and your decision's effect on the current and future generations. Think logically and use basic economic principles when doing so. Or, just let your planners guide you, that's why you hired them and that's what they're educated to do.

Treat this as a humanitarian crisis. Because it is one. Please, make the right choice.

Arvand Sabetian

