

Steve Stafford

From: Steffanie Lehr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 12:42 PM
To: Steve Stafford; planning; Mayor Kate
Subject: Memory Care Facility at Lincoln and Mission

Dear Steve,

As a resident of San Rafael that regularly uses the corner of Lincoln and Mission, and just as a resident concerned about the look of San Rafael, I am writing in regard to the new Memory Care facility soon to be constructed on that corner.

I believe you have received the following email statement from Karen Carlson. I agree completely with her words, which I have copied below and added my own comments in bold.

"I understand that the developer is currently petitioning to erect the building at a height of 62 feet? A structure of this size is utterly incongruent to the Lincoln Hill neighborhood. Even at a height of 51 feet, this building is objectionable, but an additional 9 feet? And I assume that this height change would also increase the population density of the proposed facility? How could this possibly be justified? I am praying that our city officials will reconsider, due to:

TRAFFIC: this area is already chronically gridlocked to an extent which exceeds inconvenience--it is often unsafe. The City should be working on ways to alleviate the current situation, rather than continually compounding it (e.g., SMART train). ***I am often stuck in the SMART train traffic, especially when trying to make a left turn onto Lincoln from Mission going eastbound. Adding the vehicles of the staff of this facility alone makes this corner even more dangerous.**

PARKING: residents of this neighborhood already struggle to find parking. Instead of improving this situation, the City is choosing to worsen it? Where will the staff and guests of this new facility park their vehicles?

WATER: adding to our water burden is an unconscionable choice. Our current historic drought is being caused by circumstances which will only worsen over time. Meanwhile, we are constructing a gigantic hotel downtown! We do not have the resources to support this usage. ***As residents of SR, we are now under drought restrictions. I can only water once a week. Why would we add to this burden?**

DESIGN: I find it shocking that this design could have been approved by our planning department. It is an extremely unsightly building, and recent redesigns have not improved it. It violates every rule of architectural aesthetics, with its jumbled sight lines, ridiculous columns and towers, and gratuitously cluttered facade. It evokes images of a downscale theme park, and would add to the embarrassing provincialism of our town. I hate to see yet another squandered opportunity for a sophisticated, elegant addition to San Rafael. ***Agree completely. We have a chance to add beauty. It's bad enough that the swath of the 101 that runs through San Rafael cuts between barren industrial buildings and NO trees, which makes San Rafael look like the poor country cousin of Corte Madera and Mill Valley.**

I hate to see yet another squandered opportunity for a sophisticated, elegant addition to San Rafael. In my 35 years as a resident, I have felt as if the City increasingly disregards the opinions of its citizens. I hold hope that this time might be different."

Steve, I hope that you see that this is a big detail to the residents of San Rafael. We simply want San Rafael to develop thoughtfully.

Look forward to your thoughts.

Kindly,
Steffanie

Steffanie Lehr Burkhard

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]