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Subject: FW: [EXT] Form submission from: Public Comment
Date: Sunday, June 18, 2023 6:05:31 PM

From: Escondido Meetings Portal via Municode Portal
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2023 6:05:20 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
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Submitted on Sunday, June 18, 2023 - 6:05pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment Planning Commission

Email monchis.balderas@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 6/27/23

Item # PHG20-0028

Subject East Valley Specific Plan

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Ramon Balderas

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Here is a list of some common downsides that can arise from housing and community investment in a city:

1. **Gentrification:** Housing and community investment can lead to gentrification, where wealthier residents move into a neighborhood, causing property values and rents to rise. This can displace lower-income residents and change the character of the community, leading to a loss of cultural diversity and community cohesion.
2. **Displacement:** As property values increase, some long-time residents may be forced to leave their homes due to rising rents or property taxes. Displacement can disrupt established social networks, strain community ties, and contribute to increased inequality.
3. **Inequality:** While housing and community investment can improve living conditions for some residents, they may exacerbate socioeconomic disparities. Affluent neighborhoods may receive more attention and funding, leading to a widening gap between wealthy and disadvantaged areas within a city.
4. **Increased cost of living:** As housing and community investments improve neighborhoods, the cost of living can rise. Higher property values, rents, and taxes can put financial strain on existing residents, especially those with fixed incomes or limited resources.

5. Loss of affordable housing: Development and revitalization efforts may lead to a reduction in affordable housing stock. As properties are renovated or redeveloped, affordable units can be lost, making it harder for low-income individuals and families to find suitable housing options.
6. Traffic congestion: Housing and community investment can lead to increased population density, which can strain transportation infrastructure. The influx of new residents and businesses can contribute to traffic congestion, longer commute times, and a greater demand for public transportation.
7. Environmental impact: Urban development and increased population density can have negative environmental consequences. Construction activities, increased energy consumption, and additional waste generation can place a burden on local ecosystems and contribute to pollution.
8. Loss of green spaces: As cities grow and develop, green spaces such as parks and gardens may be diminished or replaced by buildings and infrastructure. This can reduce access to nature, limit recreational opportunities, and impact the overall quality of life for residents.
9. Social tensions: Changes in housing and community dynamics can sometimes lead to social tensions within a city. Conflicts may arise between new and long-time residents, resulting in divisions based on class, race, or cultural differences.
10. Lack of community input: In some cases, housing and community investment projects may be planned and implemented without sufficient community consultation or input. This can lead to a sense of disempowerment among residents and a perception that decisions are being made without considering their needs and preferences.
11. Crime: The addition of the requested 6,164 residential dwelling units will also indirectly lead to further cultivation of crime hot spots within Escondido. Many factors, such as social and economic conditions, systemic issues, and individual circumstances, contribute to crime rates in a city. Tens of thousands of additional variables would be flowing into Escondido and it would be reckless to cast them aside without assuming the possibility of some of those variables being a danger to the city council and to the community within proximity of the planned project.