

From: Elaine Andersen
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:07 AM
To: Steven Wang; Pam Johns; Desmond Parrington; Rebecca Neves; Josh Kinkade
Subject: FW: Folsom City Council: Appeals fee increase

FYI...

From: Paul Keast <mrpd@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:44 AM
To: Mike Kozlowski <mkozlowski@folsom.ca.us>; YK Chalamcherla <ykchalamcherla@folsom.ca.us>; Rosario Rodriguez <rrodriguez@folsom.ca.us>; Sarah Aquino <saquino@folsom.ca.us>; Anna Rohrbough <annar@folsom.ca.us>
Cc: Elaine Andersen <eandersen@folsom.ca.us>
Subject: Folsom City Council: Appeals fee increase

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March 15, 2024

Mayor and City Council Members

City Manager

City of Folsom
50 Natoma Street
Folsom, CA 95630

Subject: City Council Appeal Cost Increase

Dear Mayor, Council Members and City Manager:

I am sending this letter to ask that you not raise the Appeal Fees any higher than they are at currently.

(For those that do not know I have used the appeal process in the past)

I believe the appeal process is an important right that must be available to residents of the City at a reasonable cost. With that, below are a few thoughts about not raising the cost.

- Raising the cost of appeals will only reinforce the beliefs that elected and City staff are not interested in hearing from residents. Are appeals just another pain of leadership or a significant message to consider from an appellant?
- If the cost is made high enough then residents have another barrier that is so high that Staff can feel their recommendations are now even more secure
- The current cost of \$500.00 is a significant cost to pay to start the process (I know this as I had to pay it)
- Making the decision to appeal and the work to go through is not trivial, so raising the cost is even more of a burden
- Over the last 5 years there have been 10 appeals, from the City's data. Averaging 2 per year, that does not seem to be a huge or unreasonable burden to hear as a Council (especially in comparison to the cost in time, effort, and cost for the appellant)

A couple of solutions to consider:

- Given the reason to raise the cost is staff time for the appeal. I suggest that there be no City staff prep and the Council use the packet and information from the original decision.
- The City employed a consultant in the fee examination process. In the Council meeting he proposed that fees that have "high community benefit" have low cost. Appeals are a direct process of communication about significant issues. That seems to be a good definition of "high community benefit"

Regards,

Paul Keast