



PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

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To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email PublicComment@losaltosca.gov

From: [Gabriel Engeland](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Nick Zornes](#)
Subject: Fw: 330 Distel Circle Privacy Concern
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 8:28:37 PM

Thanks,

Gabe

Gabriel Engeland
City Manager
City of Los Altos
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From: Damian H <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 6:31 PM
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>; Anita Enander <aenander@losaltosca.gov>; Sally Meadows <smeadows@losaltosca.gov>; Neysa Fligor <nfligor@losaltosca.gov>; Lynette Lee Eng <lleeeng@losaltosca.gov>; Jonathan Weinberg <jweinberg@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: 330 Distel Circle Privacy Concern

Los Altos City Council, the 5-story building to be developed on 330 Distel Circle will impact the privacy of several homes located in the Marich Way neighborhood (see diagram below). This is due to the fact that the 5-story building windows facing Marich Way will be overlooking the various homes' backyards, swimming pools, and (bedroom) windows. The current trees provide little coverage due to the height of this new development (existing trees on 330 Distel Circle will be removed)

I moved to my house about 2-years ago and I followed all the laws to remodel it. We even reduced the size of the roof on the backyard (which would have provided extra privacy) to meet the Los Altos city code. None of the houses developed on Marich Way or in the neighborhood, expected such a tall construction to be developed. With this in mind, I would like to request the developer of this property to come up with a proposal to avoid endangering the privacy of the current homes, such as: 1) Reducing the height of the development, 2) Plant additional trees (or equivalent tall vegetation) closer to the actual impacted homes so privacy can be respected, 3) The windows of the building facing Marich should be reduced to small windows close to the ceiling of the apartment units so people inside the unit cannot see down while light can still go through.

I have been working with the developers on this issue but little progress is happening. Though I attended the last council meeting on August 18th, I did not feel that neighbors had enough time to voice their concerns (we had 2 mins on a full 2-hour presentation). In other words, we spend almost 2 hours discussing the property in question but less than 2 mins to voice concerns and we were not able to be part of the overall discussion (i.e. the approach does not seem fair necessarily).

Lastly, the City of Los Altos seems to not be willing/able to properly enforce parking codes (which impact RVs as well as vehicles parked overnight). Case in point, I reported an RV parked on 330 Distel Circle and it took more than 5 attempts to get it handled. More concerning, the 330 Distel Circle property will only have 90 mechanical parking spaces for the 90-units being proposed (which will be insufficient since in general most units will have 2 cars each) In addition, there is no reassurance that the actual mechanical parking unit will be required to be used, stay functional, etc. As such, there is a very high chance that cars from this new building will be parked on the streets for days and/or overnight. Based on <https://www.losaltosca.gov/cityclerk/page/los-altos-municipal-code>, "The Los Altos City Code contains provisions and laws adopted by the City Council to maintain a healthy and safe community and to preserve the quality-of-life in Los Altos. The Code includes Zoning and Building regulations as well as administrative regulations." As such, why does the City enforces certain codes, while not others (such as "8.20.090 - Parking for more than 72 hours" and "8.20.220 - All night parking prohibited.")? How would these City codes be enforced for this new building? How does the City determine which codes to enforce while maintaining a safe community and good quality-of-life? We need to ensure that we are consistent on how we enforce the City code or change them accordingly to reflect changes. I have emailed these concerns to the planning committee in July, but I have yet to get a proper response.

I am in favor of affordable housing, however we should be mindful of the privacy implications for the current residents as well. We need to find a balanced approach.

What do you recommend as next steps? I will be attending the meeting on 9/20.

Thanks





September 14, 2022

Dear Mayor Enander, Vice Mayor Meadows, and members of the Los Altos City Council,

On behalf of Los Altos Community Voices (LACV), we urge you to approve the design and issue a conditional use permit for the proposed all-affordable, 90-unit development at 330 Distel Circle. The applicant has conducted extensive outreach to inform the community about their plans and has been very responsive to suggested modifications.

Robin Abrams, Curtis Cole, Kim Cranston, Bill Sheppard, Marie Young
LACV Steering Committee