

September 7, 2023

Dear Planning Commission Members,

I am writing to urge you not to remove the the FAR restrictions and keep the requirements/zoning/density limits that allow Rancho Shopping Center to remain as it is, a neighborhood shopping center.

As a resident of the Rancho neighborhood, I feel that allowing construction of high density housing here would be completely out of character for the neighborhood and be a detriment to our community. The shopping center is in full use to the local community and has been so since inception of the shopping center and surrounding neighborhood. Contrary to some of the content the Dailly Post article, the parking lot is often full from use of local residents, as well as lots of foot and bike traffic. The change to high density housing would create upheaval, traffic, and the negative effect on Rancho businesses and all of our neighborhood would be dramatic and unacceptable. I am originally from Palo Alto, and my move to Los Altos was specifically for the rural nature of living here. Even the photo on the Planning Commission website of downtown is all about the quaint and picturesque town, not of a big city. And the Rancho neighborhood, exemplifies the small town ambience even more so. To increase traffic, noise, congestion, and distrupction goes against all of the things we live here for.

I understand that the city has obligations for new housing. But putting that in a neighborhood should not be the best option. What about areas like along San Antonio between Foothill and Hillview were there are low businesses that front onto San Antonio? That is a more commercial area with access to downtown, but not in a neighborhood. I believe other options must be considered.

I hope that you will give serious consideration to the negative impact this would have on those of us who reside in this and surrounding neighborhoods. I urge you to keep Rancho zoned as it is.

Thank you,
Susan Goldberg
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