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911 Oregon Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Sonora City Council
94 N. Washington Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Received By

JUL 30 2025

City of Sonora

RE: Conveyance of Washington Street ROW to ex-Mayor Bill Canning

I spend nearly every day in the old Tuolumne Foundry neighborhood working and caring for my disabled son, and I strongly object to the conveyance of Washington Street right-of-way in our community to the former city councilman and mayor.

Have we learned nothing from Pacific Palisades and Paradise? Washington Street is a primary escape route in the event of fire and should be widened and improved—not given away to the former mayor for his parking lot.

Have you seen the traffic backups in this area in the afternoon stretching almost to Calaveras Street? A responsible, forward looking City Council would make plans to widen Washington, add a dedicated right-turn lane for cars leaving town, or perhaps a dedicated left-turn lane, not give valuable right-of-way for a former mayor's pet project.

It is one thing to encourage a property owner to do anything he wants on his own land.

It is quite another thing to give away precious public resources that are needed for other purposes, and sell out the people who rely on you for sound judgement, in order to help him fulfill his dreams. This is small town cronyism at its worst and should be investigated as such.

EVERY single property owner and resident in the neighborhood of this project—from Calaveras Street to The Bypass, and from the west side of Washington Street to Hospital Road—HAS SIGNED A PETITION asking you to scale down or eliminate this project.

You have received that petition and you treated it with NO REGARD whatsoever. You are not leaders. You are sellouts to an influential buddy hoping to profit from his relationship with you.

Why not replace the two homes that used to stand on this lot and let all of us live our lives in peace? Why not limit the height of this disturbingly high structure running the entire length of the property so that the neighbors retain some sort of view? Why not reduce the size of this monstrosity to the previously determined legal limits so that we don't have a 50-space parking lot with floodlights in our delightful, historic, residential neighborhood? Why are you changing regulations to shoehorn a major commercial and

high density housing project that requires a much bigger piece of property onto this tiny lot accessed with one-way streets? Why are you bending over backwards?

It's insane or corrupt. What's your game?

The fact that you insist on pushing this through in spite of its negative impacts on every neighbor—including the eyesore factor, intolerable lighting in the massive parking lot, increased noise, doubling the local population, greatly increased traffic on single lane streets, destruction of ANY view from Oregon Street that has been enjoyed since the first house was built here over 100 years ago, obliteration of a seasonal creek, removal of trees, blight at the entrance to our town, the disturbing element of society you are inviting into our tight-knit community—is proof that you care more about greasing the palm of a buddy than for the welfare of Sonora.

Of course none of you live in this neighborhood and neither does the former mayor, so what do you care?

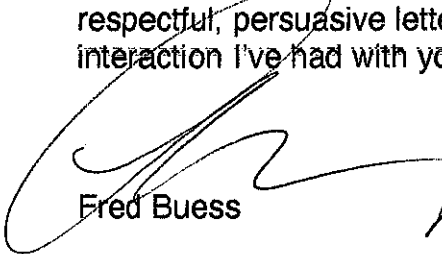
It is disgusting. It is stupid. It is shortsighted. It is corrupt.

The deterioration of Sonora over the past twenty years has been breathtaking and can be laid at the feet of the Sonora City Council.

When we moved here this was a town with no empty commercial spaces, restaurants such as Banny's, Backstreet and Miners Shack with people waiting outside to get in, thriving wedding venues and busy B&Bs all over town. Downtown motels like Inns of California, Gunn House and Sonora Inn weren't disgusting. There was a little pride in these. You did everything in your power to destroy all that—you raised taxes and regulated "charming" right out of existence—you certainly didn't support it. You encouraged just the sort of development we are discussing here and the town has suffered in every way.

You've invited the worst elements into our town and this project will do the same. The travelers that used to enjoy spending time in Sonora go somewhere else and yet you continue to jack up the TOT and sales tax as if you are offering them something irresistible. You aren't. They can walk the streets with the homeless and wander the aisles of Dollar General without traveling here. Thanks a lot!

We never would have moved here if we had known the direction you would take this community and that you continue to pursue right now. You've taken care of yourselves and city employees and that's about it. If I thought you cared, I'd have written a respectful, persuasive letter, but you clearly don't and you've proven that with every interaction I've had with you.



Fred Buess

*P.S. HOW LATE ARE YOUR FINELY
PRINTED NOTICES AROUND THE PROPERTY?
NOT AS NAMED OF YOUR CORRUPTION ARE YOU?*