



Additional Documents List City Council Special Meeting August 10, 2022

Item No.	Agenda Item Description	Distributor	Document
1.	Public Comments	Yolanda Chavez, Interim City Clerk Records Specialist	Attached are public comments.

**Public Comment
Item No. 1
August 10, 2022**

From: joshraymd@gmail.com
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Subject: Housing element public comment.
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 10:40:11 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I wasn't expecting a Housing Element meeting tonight.

I just want to make sure something is clear after I keep hearing the staff and then Council member Mahmoud repeat some things.

What is happening to South Pasadena and all the other smaller cities that caused the housing crisis is exactly what the state legislators and Gavin Newsom WANTS to happen.

Your staff suggested having HCD come visit South Pasadena. I fully support that because it will not help your cause. Affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH) laws were designed to make sure rich exclusive cities are forced to build housing, and we are a sundown city that shut down all new housing in the 80s because Asian people were moving in, as quoted by LA Times articles at that time.

Your staff suggested meeting with "someone higher up at HCD." The head of the Housing Elements section, Paul McDougall, personally wrote your December letter. His boss told me "there was nothing legal about that Housing Element." Trust me when I say this, HCD knows exactly what is happening to South Pasadena.

Your staff requested meeting with HCDs legislative staff and also your local legislators. You don't understand. You are the bad guys these laws were designed for. The head of the Senate Housing committee is Senator Weiner. The people who are about to take over the speakership in December are the people who wrote the biggest housing bills (Lee, Wicks, Rob Rivas). Mike Fong was just elected and if he complains about South Pasadena his chances of doing anything useful for a while goes down significantly.

There was also the "legislative intent" discussion that happened with the extension. The intent was to give Los Angeles a break because they actually did a great Housing Element and was hit unexpectedly with AFFH. The law was specifically written to be sure all the harsh penalties still applied to places like South Pasadena. There is NO legislative intent to give SoPas a break.

And I know you guys don't follow housing news that closely, but just yesterday Newsom announced he was going to do the first even "forensic audit" of the San Francisco housing approval process and they also wrote a very harsh letter on their Housing Element.

Your housing approval time is almost the same as San Francisco. Your Inclusionary Housing Ordinance is HIGHER than San Francisco's. Your staff recommended replacing that IHO a with a 15% Very Low Income that WAS STILL HIGHER than San Francisco's. And HCD knows these facts.

So I hope you guys understand that if you want a compliant Housing Element, it will require drastic changes across the board. By my count you are 1,000 units short of what is needed, but your staff, especially Liz Bar-El, keeps telling you that you are close and that incremental changes will get you there.

Here is a link to the San Fran article:

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/Gov-Newsom-launches-unprecedented-review-of-San-17362055.php>

After a year of escalating warnings, Gov. Gavin Newsom is launching an unprecedented review of San Francisco's notoriously lengthy and difficult housing approval and permitting process, aimed at identifying and removing barriers to construction of new residential development in the city.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development said Tuesday that it would focus on San Francisco for its first-ever "housing policy and practice review," a process that will dissect why the city has the state's longest timeline for advancing housing projects and is the subject of the most complaints from Newsom's Housing Accountability Unit. The unit was created last year to alleviate California's housing shortage by forcing cities to follow state laws in approving and permitting new housing.

Sent from my iPad

From: Alan Ehrlich <Alan.Ehrlich@mail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 3:02 PM

To: City Council Public Comment <ccpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov>; Angelica Frausto-Lupo <afraustolupo@southpasadenaca.gov>

Subject: Public Comment Special Joint Meeting Agenda Item 1

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

City Clerk,

Please include the attached comments for this evening's unprecedented special joint meeting



Residents participating in this evening's special joint meeting

"Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants."

- Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis

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"Openness in government is essential to the functioning of a democracy."

International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers, Local 21 v. Superior Court
California Supreme Court, 42 Cal.4th 319 (2007)

Public Comment, Agenda Item 1

Special Joint City Council / Planning Commission Meeting, 08/10/22

Council members & Planning Commissioners,

You should all be embarrassed to have called for and participated in this sham special meeting for which there was no urgency nor need. The council members should be further ashamed of their latent disrespect and disregard for the city's alleged 'overworked' staff, who apparently are not so over-worked that they are able to drop everything to prepare for this unneeded sham meeting.

There is nothing to be presented this evening that could not have waited until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the city council on 8/17.

While there is a sense of urgency to finish and adopt the city's 6th Housing Cycle Element plan by October 15 of this year, HCD's requirement is only that the city, like many other cities have done, adopt a plan. Whether or not HCD has determined the plan to be compliant with state housing goals is an entirely separate issue from whether or not the city has adopted a plan.

In HCD's 7/08/22 response to the city's 2nd draft housing element plan, HCD did not direct the city to respond by a specific date. Since the 7/20/22 council meeting, there is no new public information that anything has changed which might be a cause for calling this unprecedented joint meeting of the Council and Planning Commission. There have been no community forums regarding a proposed 3rd draft Housing element plan to date, so what has changed, where is the urgency. That's right, there is none.

What is also unusual are the three unannounced special closed session council meetings since 08/01 allegedly to discuss the Californians for Homeownership v. South Pasadena lawsuit. Does the council need a special closed session meeting every time a single element of a settlement proposal changes? Isn't the council's job to provide direction to the city attorney and not micromanage every detail. I guess that's a problem when you have four attorneys as council members. In my experience, no Superior Court judge has ever told the parties in this type of dispute, this matter is being continued until (anything less than 30 days). So where is the urgency?

Residents know the council has been trying for more than two years to repeal the voter approved 1983 height limit measure. Residents know the council is also trying to eliminate any exclusionary housing policy. The Planning Commissioners were not willing to provide such recommendations to the council during their special meeting on 7/26/22. In fact, the commissioners in that meeting stated they could not consider either policy change without first conducting robust community outreach.

The only robust outreach since 7/26 has been the three closed session council meetings.'s

Council elitism and contempt for residents is wearing thin. Residents are all aware of the Aug 12 deadline for council to submit a height limit repeal measure to the County RR/CC in time to be included on the November 2022 ballot. Since that option does not appear on the agenda or staff report for this evening, council would need to have another special meeting tomorrow, or more likely Friday morning, when residents are less likely to be able to participate, to secretly vote to submit such a measure to the RR/CC.

I trust the Planning Commissioners will not go along with this charade and give council the cover you are hoping for. None of you charlatans deserve to be on council any longer. You've overstayed your welcome. I invite you to put a recall measure on the ballot alongside any measure to modify or repeal the voter approved height limit measure.

Alan Ehrlich
1221 Lyndon St
South Pasadena

From: [Elizabeth Anne Bagasao](#)
To: [City Council Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Angelica Frausto-Lupo](#); [John Srebalus](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Special Meeting Planning Commission
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 3:41:57 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

On behalf of South Pasadena Tenants Union please accept our public comment into record.

“South Pasadena Tenants Union is a grassroots organization dedicated to defending tenant rights and interests. We are a community of activists that believe in fair and affordable housing. We aim to spread awareness, support and education for tenants throughout our city.

We know first hand through our direct work with tenants who have been struggling to pay rent and forced to fight unlawful evictions, as well as our direct interaction with our unhoused community, the dire situation that the housing crisis has become. South Pasadena, as a city in the County of Los Angeles, as neighbors to Pasadena, LA and Alhambra, has a moral obligation to do it’s part to ease this crisis. South Pasadena has an obligation to the people of California to build, not only more housing, but as much housing as possible.

Unless the City can build a glass dome over 91030, we can not continue to operate as an exceptional, precious little city while the world and its woes spin around us. We are not San Marino nor should we want to be. We can’t continue to function in a cultural, economic, racial and political vacuum. It’s unhealthy and unethical.

South Pasadena Tenants Union therefore supports a repeal of the archaic and repressive building height limit measure with the caveat that it be restricted to accommodate the building of thousands of much needed affordable units. We do not support removing the building height only for commercial use or without a requirement to include at least 15% affordable units in South Pasadena.

We encourage the City and Planning Commissioners to have the courage and compassion do what it takes to get this housing built. Even if it means upsetting some local influencers. Let progress and human cooperation be your legacy.

Thank you. “

Sent from my iPhone