

6/23/20

Item # 20-646 - Closed

Julie Minot

From: Jonathon Evans <oqra@jthon.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:42 AM
To: Mayor and Council
Cc: oqra@jthon.com
Subject: City Council Meeting - 06-23-2020 - Agenda Item 20-646 - Oppose

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am disappointed that the city is continuing to pursue this development. This is a valuable piece of City owned land located at Santa Clara's primary transit nexus.

The development process was started without any community feedback as to how this property should be utilized by the city. Specifically targeting student housing at the City's primary transit center is a waste of such a prime location. Instead the City should be pursuing opportunities to provide more affordable housing at the site. This is one of the few City owned parcels, and as such should be used to provide as much affordable housing as possible. This is in-line with the VTA's transit oriented development playbook, and the City's own Santa Clara Station focus area. A private dorm on this site is not in line with either, and shows that the City is out of touch with the need for housing in our area.

District 5 where this site is located currently has no representation on the council, and any negotiation of this magnitude should be conducted with appropriate representation.

As the City is moving forward with negotiations on the lease of this property, it should be noted that the provisions of the Surplus Land Act which require the City to engage in a competitive bid process before entering into negotiations to dispose of the property. The City is also required to notify the availability of this land to local agencies and the State Department of Housing and Community Development with the purpose of developing low- and moderate-income housing.

The exclusive negotiating agreement the City has previously signed with Republic Metro appears to be in violation of this state requirement, and opens the City up to subsequent litigation if this negotiation continues.

The City of Santa Clara should terminate the agreement, and start this process over by involving the community from the start.

-Jonathon Evans
Santa Clara City Resident
President - OQRA

POST MEETING MATERIAL