

Item 6



**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

Date: August 24, 2021

To: City Manager

From: Executive Assistant to the Mayor & City Council

Subject: Correspondence received regarding Item 6 on the August 24, 2021 City Council Meeting Agenda

As of August 24, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. the Mayor and City Council Offices received the attached correspondence regarding agenda item 6. Action on a Written Petition (Council Policy 030) submitted by Leonne (Lee) Broughman on July 12, 2021 to add an agenda item to a future date about Censure/Admonishment of Councilmember Park (Continued from August 17, 2021).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JM".

Julie Minot
Executive Assistant to the
Mayor & City Council

Documents Related to this Report:
1) *Communications received*

POST MEETING MATERIAL

Julie Minot

From: Adam Mayer <adam@studio-ama.com>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:40 PM
To: Lisa Gillmor; Kathy Watanabe; Raj Chahal; Karen Hardy; Kevin Park; Sudhanshu Jain; Anthony Becker
Cc: Mayor and Council
Subject: Thoughts on Concilmember Park's Comments about Homeowners

Dear Santa Clara Mayor and Councilmembers:

Just wanted to share a quick thought with you about this topic. Maybe it won't matter to you since I am not a resident of Santa Clara (but I live and do business all over the South Bay).

I don't think his comments merit censure. The topic of housing is certainly over-heated these days and as an architect I've had to deal with my fair share of angry neighbors. But the idea of adding smartly-designed density along El Camino Real makes sense. And there are other options too.

As your city goes through the Housing Element update process (like every other municipality in California) I would like to share with you my new Substack piece about "The Great California Housing Debate" and how we can visualize sensible solutions to the state's housing crisis:

<https://www.adammayerarchitect.com/p/the-great-california-housing-debate>

One of the things that prompted me to write this piece was reading about the debate currently happening in our state's communities over SB9 and SB10 (as well as the RHNA numbers)

As elected representatives, I know you are hearing it from both sides right now over housing issues (and this is probably what prompted Mr. Park's comments).

I propose there is a middle way between not doing anything at all (not adding any new housing/keeping things the way they are) and planning for new housing that is appropriately scaled, aesthetically pleasing and enhances the neighborhood character instead of detracting from it.

Let's not get distracted by the "State vs local control" rhetoric and instead find creative solutions to lead the way forward.

Best,
Adam Mayer, Architect



Adam N. Mayer AIA, LEED AP, BC+C, WELL AP
Email: adam@studio-ama.com
Mobile: +1 415.972.9086
467 Saratoga Avenue #178
San José, CA 95129
studio-ama.com

Julie Minot

From: Ian Clements <ianc408@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Censure of Council member Park.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mayor Gilmore and members of the Council:

In a recent article in the San Jose Spotlight, Council member Park was admonished for comparing homeowners to "toddlers".

It's actually worse because his words imply he has no interest in listening to members of his constituency and it implies he (seemingly) knows more about urban planning than what his constituents may want. I don't know what kind of engineer Mr. Park is but I'd like to remind him that engineers are the people who place oil drain plugs in places that allow oil to drain all over the undersides of automobiles. Engineers are also the ones who design electronic devices that require a degree to operate yet claim to be user friendly. They also design stadiums where half the seating is in full coverage of the sun.

Council member Park may not think his remarks are offensive and maybe they aren't but comparing his constituents to toddlers? Really? This city is the home of top universities and satellite campuses of others. It is home to many innovative companies where its residents are founders and employees of these businesses. And while no one else may have raised questions about that particular meeting, Park has been in hot water over his (alleged) abusive behavior in the past.

Should he be given a letter of censure? I don't know. But that behavior isn't tolerated in most professional work places. I do think a little more respect is due the residents of Santa Clara. Especially when it comes to those who don't share his opinion.

Regards,
Ian Clements

Julie Minot

From: David Roode <droode@netwiz.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 3:15 PM
To: Mayor and Council
Cc: David Roode
Subject: censure for CM Kevin Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The recent analogy Kevin Park made regarding some of his constituents was offensive. He claimed homeowners as a class of people were mere toddlers, and said that they deserved no right to express their preferences. He said they needed to be told what to do, in regards to city design.

First, his comments are wrong. All constituents deserve a voice. It is possible to factor everyone into account. By saying otherwise, his comment serves to undermine democracy. He doesn't deserve to be in office, but that's a matter for the voters in the future.

Primarily, these comments are patently discriminatory. They serve to make homeowners feel unsafe in commenting to the council. He deserves censure because these amount to stereotyping and discriminating. The council should censure him for that reason.

Another thing to consider is that this kind of discourse is unprofessional and not productive in government. It serves to divide people. Name calling is never appropriate, but from an elected representative it cannot go unchallenged. It's important to call him out for this behavior.