

Varsh, Tess

From: Marjorie Lindbeck [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 7:54 AM
To: Varsh, Tess
Subject: Planning Commission meeting

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Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for residential/mixed-use development on North Lake Avenue between Colorado and Corson. I have been a resident in the Playhouse Village since 2007 and have seen this City and my neighborhood change. Pre-Covid it was becoming clear that the General Plan in regards to No. Lake Avenue was becoming outdated. The Pandemic itself shed a new light on so many issues. I believe all of us are rethinking our biases and preferences. Pasadena should be taking advantage of this particular transit corridor to build a vibrant community where people can live and get to work easily. Pasadena has always been a great place for people to live who work in downtown. I was one of those people because I can easily walk to the Gold Line. Let's not put Pasadena in a situation where the State of California mandates how we govern ourselves and the choices we make. We are better than that. Let's be creative and clever and forward-thinking.

Our world has been forever changed this past year. People are rethinking everything. There is now less demand for office space, and there is more demand for housing. It is only logical to allow residential/mixed-use development in this area of N. Lake. Not only is it logical; it is imperative. We have a homeless and housing crisis, and we need to be more thoughtful about how we approach these problems. Let's think ahead and not remain stuck in a plan that was developed before any of us could foresee the issues we now face. Now is the time for this progressive city to be forward-thinking and at least adopt a policy that will allow — and encourage --all sorts of creative possibilities. As fewer offices are being used as office space and the demand for office space declines, it creates an opportunity to think differently about how we live, work, and play. Please include this area of Lake Avenue as part of the approach to addressing the housing needs, and support an amendment to the General Plan as well as updates to the Specific Plan to do so.

Thank you,

Marjorie

Marjorie Lindbeck
[REDACTED]

Varsh, Tess

From: Brian [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Varsh, Tess
Cc: Reyes, David
Subject: PC Item 4 Comment

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

We support allowing housing and mixed-use development on the portion of North Lake Avenue between the Metro Station and Colorado Boulevard as part of the approach to meeting the housing allocation needs through the Housing Element update. Several commenters in the first Housing Element public workshop expressed this opportunity, particularly given the increasing uncertainty with the office market. This portion of Lake Avenue suffers from an average office vacancy of 35% and has not seen major new investment since before the Great Recession. The retail and pedestrian environment also suffer from the ongoing lack of activity, furthering the decline of this visible gateway into Pasadena. Importantly, this portion of Lake Avenue has the potential to accommodate a significant amount of new residential development with no displacement or gentrification concerns, and is proximate to major transit lines.

Our comments and views on this issue were initially raised in the current update process for the Central District Specific Plan, and were discussed by City Council recently. That discussion highlighted the importance of the broader context of solving our housing crisis with more creative - and heretofore unexpected - solutions, likely through the Housing Element update. Please support this area's inclusion as part of the city's solution to the housing crisis and recommend the land use policy and zoning changes necessary for an amendment to the General Plan and a supportive, consistent Central District Specific Plan.

Thank you,

Brian Wallace
Executive Director

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