

From: [Ronit Bryant](#)
To: [City Council FORWARD](#)
Subject: Item 8.2 comments
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 8:38:34 AM

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Councilmembers,

I join my voice with those of many residents asking you to look again at the commercial development at 590 Castro. Some key points:

- The public has had very little opportunity to comment on the basic nature of this development. Five neighbors with no concerns at an October public meeting? That sounds like a meeting that was not sufficiently publicized.
- This project offers our city no benefits: more office space worsening our jobs-housing imbalance. Why do that?
- The corner of Castro and Church will become 100% office and Pioneer Park will be pretty much closed off from Castro - not a way to bring life to the upper part of Castro.
- Have you noticed that the offered "Pedestrian landscaped connection between Castro Street and Pioneer Park" is 2 inches wider than the minimum required by development standards?

At the very least, please offer this project no exceptions: if the project cannot proceed without them, so be it. Housing would be a much better fit for that location, with significant benefits to the city.

sincerely,
ronit bryant

From: [D Offen or G Nyhan](#)
To: [Ramirez, Lucas](#); [Hicks, Alison](#); [Abe-Koga, Margaret](#); [Kamei, Ellen](#); [Lieber, Sally](#); [Matichak, Lisa](#); [Showalter, Pat](#)
Cc: [City Council FORWARD](#)
Subject: 590 Castro- 4-12-22 Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 9:20:02 AM

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Councilmember-

As long-time homeowners in Mountain View, we continue to be concerned about the jobs-housing imbalance in our city. If you approve the proposed office development at 590 Castro, you will be allowing 500 potential new jobs downtown without any new housing and only require inadequate fees for this imbalance. In our view the best action would be to reject this project as proposed. It will stress our city services and negatively impact our quality of life. At least the Council should require a higher offsetting penalty fee from the developer in order to build new affordable housing elsewhere in the city.

Thank you for considering our view,
Dave Offen & Gail Nyhan



From: [Gwen Smith](#)
To: [Ramirez, Lucas](#); [Hicks, Alison](#); [Kamei, Ellen](#); [Matichak, Lisa](#); [Abe-Koga, Margaret](#); [Showalter, Pat](#); [Lieber, Sally](#)
Cc: [City Council FORWARD](#)
Subject: Commercial Development at 590 Castro Street
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 11:22:59 AM

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Mayor Ramirez, Vice-Major Hicks, and City Council Members,

My name is Gwendolyn Smith and I am a resident of Mountain View. I am writing to express my concern about the planned commercial development proposal at 590 Castro Street - in particular the removal of heritage trees. The project proposes to remove 19 trees, 9 of which are heritage trees. Why is it that the standard response of development companies is to remove established trees when it should be in their best interest and that of a city to encourage the preservation of existing trees - enhancing the image and appeal of such projects as well as reputation and profits? Why didn't the architect and development company design something creative that incorporated existing heritage trees? The small grove of three redwoods or as they are referred to in the proposal, "parking lot" trees, are beautiful and majestic – characteristics that cannot be said of yet another generic office building in Mountain View.

The proposal states that 54 new trees would be planted on-site and 75% native planting. What is meant by "native planting"? What kinds of "new trees" are being proposed? While a higher tree count might sound good it often means that the developer rips out healthy mature trees only to replace them with saplings, bushes, and grasses for ornamental landscapes. In the renderings I see what look like jacaranda trees and typical curbside trees. Not all trees are equal. From an environmental and conservation perspective, trees such as pines and redwoods should not be replaced with jacaranda, myrtles, and ornamental bushes and grasses. Church Street between Castro and Franklin is lined with redwoods that enhance its nature and attractiveness. Pioneer Park has some lovely large trees. Any development on this site should preserve and extend that environmental context. A few oaks, pines and redwoods are worth more than a myriad of ornamental trees.

I urge you to veto or at least minimize the removal of heritage trees on this property and to preserve and extend the planting of redwoods, oaks, and pines instead of ornamental trees and plants.

Sincerely – Gwen Smith