

Glaser, Heather

From: Serge Bonte [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 3:55 PM
To: City Council; Ramirez, Lucas; Hicks, Alison; Kamei, Ellen; Showalter, Pat; Abe-Koga, Margaret; Matichak, Lisa; Emily Ramos
Subject: 11/7/23 Meeting : Agenda 3.1 Downtown Precise Plan Update

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Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

I will not be able to attend your meeting but wanted to share some thoughts on this agenda item.

1. Office Moratorium - I don't think it's warranted; Downtown has the best access to transit, retail, restaurants, services (library, performing arts, city hall...) and it's where we should put the most density (both office and housing). Higher densities will actually help maintain Downtown's vibrancy and walkability. Also, per the staff report and the letter from the Chamber, it's not likely to have any effect during the temporary duration of the moratorium. Why spend time and resources on this?

2. Boundaries Expansion. I think it makes sense to include the Transit Center, For example, the Transit Center and Downtown circulation plans are so intertwined that they should be considered together, not as separate zoning areas. As an aside, I was struck by the comment from Livable Mountain View against extending the boundaries because it would possibly force the recusal of two current council members. First, there is no predicting these two council members would still be in Council by the time they might have to recuse themselves. Second, if we want to limit the number of recusals based on geography....the solution is to have electoral districts in Mountain View so that at most one Council Member would represent Downtown or its vicinity.

3. Advisory Working Group for Downtown - I agree with many comments that it might be overkill. However, one benefit as seen in the El Camino Real Working Group is that it could broaden participation by including Mountain View residents to neighborhoods further from Downtown. After all, Downtown is more than a neighborhood, it's where we have our only library, our only performing arts center, our only post office, our main transit center....

Sincerely,

Serge Bonte