

## Gutierrez, Jeannette

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**From:** Mountain View YIMBY  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:28 AM  
**To:** Abe-Koga, Margaret; Matichak, Lisa; Ramirez, Lucas; Hicks, Alison; Kamei, Ellen; Lieber, Sally; Showalter, Pat  
**Cc:** City.Council; McCarthy, Kimbra; Shrivastava, Aarti; Pancholi, Diana  
**Subject:** Re: Item 3.1 555 West Middlefield Road Residential Project  
**Attachments:** 2021-02-23 555 West Middlefield Road Residential Project.pdf

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

Dear Mayor Kamei and members of the council:

Mountain View YIMBY, a local volunteer advocacy group, expresses enthusiastic support for the proposed project at 555 West Middlefield. We like this project because:

- It is a no-displacement project that adds 329 new homes in place of surface parking!
- 15% of on-site below market rate homes!
- Walking distance to downtown, Caltrain, and a grocery store, and right next to Stevens Creek trail this site provides a great location to lead a car-free lifestyle to the residents.
- New pedestrian and bike path connection from Cypress Point Drive to W Middlefield makes Stevens Creek trail more easily accessible to the neighbors living south of Cypress Point Drive. Further bike and pedestrian improvements along Moffett Boulevard to the north and west of this project would be most welcome!
- The 1.34 acres of land dedicated for a new park will be a welcome addition to the neighborhood, creating a space for socializing.
- The developer has listened to community feedback and made an effort to line up the residential frontage facing Cypress Point Drive with existing trees or parking lots to the south of Cypress Point Drive in order to minimize the impact to privacy of neighbors to the south of that street.
- The developer has made an effort to preserve as many heritage trees, transplanting some more and planting additional trees to make up for the ones they are requesting to remove.

We hope that you approve this project along with the zoning changes requested by the developer to make the project pencil out at its current density. It would be a shame to reduce the impact of this project by lowering the total number of homes it provides.



Thank you for considering our input.

Best regards,

Pardis Beikzadeh  
On behalf of the members of MV YIMBY

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Best regards,

Pardis Beikzadeh  
On behalf of the members of MV  
YIMBY



Mountain View  
**YIMBY**

## Gutierrez, Jeannette

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**From:** Michael Kahan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:33 AM  
**To:** Kamei, Ellen; Hicks, Alison; Ramirez, Lucas; Abe-Koga, Margaret; Matichak, Lisa; Showalter, Pat; Lieber, Sally; City.Council  
**Subject:** Plans for 555 W. Middlefield Road

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Dear Members of City Council,

I am a Mountain View resident, homeowner, and voter. I am also very concerned with the lack of affordable housing in our community, which has left so many city residents facing eviction and homelessness.

I write to support the plan to add 329 apartments at 555 W. Middlefield Road. This proposal will add to the housing stock in the city, without displacing existing residents. The city is in dire need of this housing, and ought to support the owners in pursuing this strategy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours,

Michael Kahan  
Bonita Ave, Mountain View, CA 94040

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he, him, his pronouns

## Gutierrez, Jeannette

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**From:** William Lambert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:02 PM  
**To:** City.Council  
**Cc:** McCarthy, Kimbra; Marchant, John  
**Subject:** City Council Agenda Item 7.1 - Parks  
**Attachments:** Letter Lucas Ramrez Feb-23-2021.docx

City Council,  
I originally sent the attached letter to Lucas this morning. He asked me to send it along to the rest of you.

We look forward to a productive meeting this evening.

Thanks,  
Bill

William Lambert | Partner

[WLambert@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:WLambert@sheppardmullin.com) | [Bio](#)

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**Mountain View City Council  
Agenda Item 7.1 MVWSD Proposed Fencing**

Lucas,

During the past few months, myself and the others with the Preserve Montaloma Park Group have talked with many people. We've spoken with our elected officials, the staff of the MVWSD and the City of Mountain View, and with others who serve on the various committees and commissions that support the City of Mountain View. Of course, we have also spoke with many community organizations and residents of Mountain View.

As I am sure you know, everyone deeply cares about Mountain View.

But when it comes to the issue of park space, there is sense of frustration. For different people the frustration has a different source. For those with limited park space, they want to keep the park space they have. For others it is simply to have parks within walking distance of their homes. For those on the city committees and commissions the frustration seems to arise from being unable to balance the competing interests.

The result of this situation is that there is a fatalistic acceptance that Mountain View is urbanizing with the end result that in the immediate future there will be little if any park space for much of the community. Land is expensive, housing is needed, new schools need to be built, transportation needs to be improved, and there is only so much money and a variety of legal constraints. Therefore, the path to a city thick with high rise office buildings and living complexes such as San Francisco is just inevitable

But I don't believe it needs to be that way. I believe that we can make the right decisions to improve the quality of life for everyone in a urban environment if we have the will to change.

A step in making meaningful change is to acknowledge where we are now. Part of that is admitting that whatever current arrangements, plans, and processes are currently in place, they result in eliminating meaningful park space in many areas of Mountain View. This should alert the leaders that something is wrong.

In my opinion, the process has at least in part created the open space crisis. And the solution will involve rethinking the process by which decisions are made. I can say this as a former Trustee of the MVWSD, where I acknowledge that I was part of the problem. During my tenure in office, I oversaw the expenditure of the Measure G Bond, which was used on construction projects throughout the district. I was on the board when a third of the park space at Castro/Mistral Elementary was paved over, when a quarter of the park space at Theuerkauf Elementary was taken over by the expansion of Stevenson, the district office, and what was to be temporary but is now permanent classrooms; the building of the track and field at Crittenden, and the loss of the baseball field for Vargas Elementary. There was no thought about the loss of park space or at the level of a trustee was I aware that the City was at all involved. I let it just happen without a thought.

The City counts school property as public parks and has proudly done so for decades, allowing the residents to believe that they have ample public park space. There has never been an issue with this loose arrangement until now. Now, because with the urbanization of Mountain

View the MVWSD needs to expand their campuses and use the land to accommodate population growth. This was entirely foreseeable. Yet the City appears to be willing to persist promulgating the myth that there is ample public park space, even as there becomes not much more than microparks in many areas of the city.

Why did this happen to well-meaning, thoughtful, and committed people.

I believe the organizational structure has created a process that has failed. An if the process fails to provide something as fundamental as community park space to further the health and well-being of its citizens, we need to ask about what other failures are happening.

One thing I have experienced after attending multiple meetings each week over many months is that the various groups only deal with a narrow part of an issue. The charters of these committees and commissions are necessarily narrow to help guide detailed decisions made by the city.

But what these groups are not able to do, because of their narrow focus, is address the larger issues facing the community that require multidisciplinary and creative solutions.

As you are aware, issues about urbanization, land use, and city planning is multidisciplinary.

My recommendation is to change the organizational structure and allow more opportunities for the residents to contribute to the decision making process. I do not have the expertise to make specific recommendations for organizational change. I would ask the City to seek out those experts.

I know that there are many meetings of the City such as the Visioning meetings being held later this week. But this is not what I am talking about. The City Council and Staff need to run the City. Creative solutions need to come from outside of the current context and with all stakeholders in a community as equal participants.

As I see it, right now, each organization, stakeholder, and special interest group advocates only for their own interests. That is not a way to solve problems that affect each and every resident of Mountain View and secure the quality of life for the residents of Mountain View. It is only a way to continue to lose more "park space" until there is nothing left. And if a community is willing to allow meaningful park space to disappear, the community should also ask itself about what it is really giving up on.

This is not the way it has to be.

/Bill Lambert/

Member, Preserve Monta Loma Park Group  
Resident of Monta Loma Neighborhood for 17 years  
Trustee, Mountain View Whisman School District 2012-2016  
Board, Day Worker Center of Mountains View, 2012-present, President 2015-2020.  
Board, Community Health Awareness Council, 2012-2016  
Alumni, Leadership Mountain View.  
Member, League of Women Voters