

**From:** [Peter Katz](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Item 6.2 for 8/30 City Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, August 29, 2022 3:25:07 PM

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To: Mountain View City Council  
From: Mountain View Chamber of Commerce  
Re: City Council Meeting 30 August 2022  
Item 6.2 Mixed-Use Development at 590 Castro Street

Dear esteemed members of the Mountain View City Council

The Mountain View Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of Sobrato's plans for development of 590 Castro Street.

The Chamber, as both the representative for hundreds of businesses downtown (and throughout the City), and as an operating business itself that is literally right in the middle of the proposed construction site, has repeatedly voiced its emphatic support of the project.

We have noted the economic benefits to the City, which are considerable. It helps existing businesses, it attracts new business, and it brings more foot traffic to downtown.

We have pointed out how it addresses aesthetic requirements, including green coverage and the creation of a dynamic pedestrian walkway from Castro to Pioneer Park.

We have described how Sobrato has sought our input, as well as the input of many other stakeholders, and incorporated them into their plan.

As of this hearing, the project is in **full compliance** with every condition set forth by the City. It is consistent with the vision of the General Plan, the Downtown Precise Plan, and the Downtown Parking Strategy. It has been recommended for approval by the Zoning Administrator, the Subdivision Committee, and City Staff in their latest Council Report. By the City's own definition of what qualifies as a proper project, this effort should go forward.

If for any reason, the City feels that the existing guidelines are not correct or insufficient, then the guidelines should be changed in due process. But we cannot expect developers to react to constantly changing rules, nor be denied approval when they have met all requirements in place at the time of engagement. Mountain View is already viewed as one of the hardest cities in which to do business. We cannot be seen as one that cannot adhere to its own rules.

We want – and need – a vibrant downtown that invites merchants, shoppers, visitors, and residents to work, live, play and shop. This project conforms to a longterm vision for intelligent growth, and meets all existing requirements. It is precisely the kind of development project we have said we need, want, and plan for. As a city, this is the message we need to send to developers and the general public.

We urge the City Council to support City Staff's recommendation for approval.

Thank you

Peter Katz  
President & CEO

Mountain View Chamber of Commerce

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**Peter Katz • President & CEO**  
**Mountain View Chamber of Commerce & Foundation**

 

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