

From: [Devon Conley](#)
To: [City Council FORWARD](#); [Ramirez, Lucas](#); [Hicks, Alison](#); [Kamei, Ellen](#); [Abe-Koga, Margaret](#); [Showalter, Pat](#); [Matichak, Lisa](#); [Lieber, Sally](#); city.mgr@mountaview.gov
Subject: Letter RE: Item 6.2, 601-649 Escuela Avenue and 1873 Latham Street Mixed-Use Project
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:12:01 AM
Attachments: [Letter to City Council - 6.2 601-649 Escuela Ave. and 1873 Latham St. - Google Docs.pdf](#)

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

Dear Mayor Ramirez, Vice Mayor Hicks, and Honorable Council Members,

Please find attached a letter regarding the proposed mixed use development at 601-649 Escuela Avenue and 1873 Latham St. I have also pasted the letter below.

Thank you for all of your work on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

Devon Conley

February 8, 2022

Dear Mayor Ramirez, Vice Mayor Hicks, and Honorable Council Members,

I am writing to request that the parking entrance for the proposed development at 601-649 Escuela Avenue and 1873 Latham Street be located on Escuela Avenue. I support this project and am thankful for the housing it will create, but the choice of Latham Street for a parking entrance does not fulfill the intended goal of improving walking access to Castro Elementary for school children and, instead, increases vehicular traffic on a narrow residential street that is already challenging and dangerous for children to navigate during school drop off and pick up times.

The staff report for this development notes that “Vehicle access to the site is available from Latham Street, and no vehicle access is provided on Escuela Avenue to maintain a safe pedestrian corridor between El Camino Real and Castro School.” This statement is factually inaccurate as Latham Street, not Escuela Ave, should be the prioritized pedestrian corridor for Castro Elementary School.

Latham Street is by definition a “narrow street” in Mountain View between Escuela Avenue and Chiquita Avenue. Street parking on both sides of the street is heavily used and, as a result, the section adjacent to Castro Park is often too narrow for two cars to easily pass.

During school drop off, Latham Street is heavily trafficked as families drive to Castro Elementary on Toft Street, drive to Mistral Elementary on Escuela, and pull in and out of street parking for drop off to both. I have lived on that section of Latham Street for over a decade and I've seen cars lose side view mirrors three times just this year.

Latham Street is used by students to access Castro, Mistral, and Graham schools. The school boundaries for Castro School extend to El Camino Real, and students commuting from this boundary turn onto Latham Street from Chiquita Ave to walk along quiet residential streets to the entrance for Castro School on Toft Street. Mistral is a choice school, and students regularly use Latham Street to walk or bike from the Shoreline West and Old Mountain View neighborhoods. Students attending Graham Middle School also use Latham Street to reach Shoreline Boulevard or Castro Street to cross El Camino Real. I regularly see dozens of middle schoolers walking on the South side of Latham Street as they travel between the Rengstorff neighborhood and school.

The use of Latham Street as a pedestrian and cycling corridor is one that has already been studied as part of the Latham/Church St Bike Boulevard feasibility study. That study noted heavy pedestrian and bicycle traffic between Escuela and Chiquita. We should be working to decrease, not increase, traffic on Latham Street for students and other cycling commuters.

Adding an entrance to a parking garage for 63 vehicles on a narrow residential street that is already impacted by traffic for two elementary schools on a daily basis and provides a route to school for students walking or biking makes no sense. In fact, it highly increases the likelihood that a child will be hit by a car. The entrance should be located on Escuela Ave., a larger arterial road where the entrance to existing parking at the site is already located.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

Devon Conley
Mountain View Resident, Latham Street

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