
From: Pamela Baird
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 12:59 PM
To: City Council
Subject: December 9 Council meeting-item 6.1
Attachments: Historic District December 2025.docx

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Dear Council members-

Please see the attached letter regarding item 6.1 on the agenda for the meeting December 9.

Thank you for your work on this subject and your service to MV.

Happy Holidays!

Pamela Baird
Resident of Mountain View

December 7, 2025

Dear Council members-

The upcoming December 9 meeting will be covering the historic preservation ordinances in MV. This is item 6.1 on the agenda.

Of concern is the possible detrimental effects that SB 79 may have on the downtown area of Mountain View. Decisions may be made without the ability of Council to react and protect the historic character of downtown.

At a recent public outreach meeting regarding the updating of the Downtown Precise Plan, many participants expressed the desire to know more about the history of the city and downtown and to have that information readily available to downtown visitors. As some of you may know, I conduct walking tours of downtown on behalf of the Mountain View Historical Association. About 60-70 people participate each year (about 300 people over the past five years). There are fun and interesting stories that I share about people, buildings, businesses and history. It would be a shame if some of those stories were destroyed because Mountain View has not protected its downtown.

It's a complicated set of rules and regulations that define a protected historical district. This letter is an appeal to the Council and city staff to determine how a special historic district can be created. I realize that this will take additional time for staff and Council to develop a program, but it's important that we make the commitment to create such a district.

Best regards-

Pamela Baird

Resident of Mountain View

From:
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 2:47 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Save our Historic Downtown district

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Honorable City Council Members,

On Dec. 9 you will have the opportunity to save our historic Mountain View downtown commercial district. Please protect our irreplaceable local history. Vote for placing the heart of Mountain View on the local historic register officially.

As a longtime city resident and City of Mountain View Children's Librarian, I have learned about Mountain View's history since moving here in 1981. The high school was still on the Boulangerie corner, the old single story City Hall was still standing, and you could buy a delicious "Butter Cake" from Stig's Bakery on Castro Street when I started at the library. Beth Hyland-Lawson, a MV native and Children's Librarian, often told stories of growing up in the city. One summer we built on the Summer Reading theme of exploration and organized a program led by her father Donald Lawson. He walked a large group of parents and children along Castro Street and entertained us all with history and his memories. Donald's family grocery store served the city from their Castro St. location from 1922 - 1959. He pointed out damage to the old bank building from an attempt to dynamite the exterior by inept burglars. He knew the history and had stories about all the old buildings. The children were amazed to hear about the first gas pump located centrally on Castro St. and delighted to learn about the dog who "guarded" the street by sleeping in the middle of it. These stories made the area come alive and connected them to their town more strongly.

I also had the privilege of knowing Al Jehning, a neighbor, locksmith, and owner of Jehning Family Lock Museum. Known as "Mr. Downtown Mountain View" Al always gave a cheerful wave and smile as he biked back and forth to work. He was an active member of the Mountain View Historical Association working closely with Carol Fischer, Reference Librarian, to give presentations on local history for schools and organizations. His love of Mountain View enriched my appreciation for my new home town.

The Lawsons and Jehnings contributed to the unique history that gives the downtown and surrounding area of historic homes a particular look and feel that makes Mountain View special. I hope you will agree and protect this area.

Thank you,
Barbara "Bobbi" Weesen-Baer

From: Jaime Eredia
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 1:58 PM
To: City Council
Subject: 6.1 Historic Preservation Ordinance and Historic Register Update

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Dear Members of the Mountain View City Council: We understand the city council will have a public hearing on Tuesday, December 9, on the city's Historic Ordinance and Local Register Update.

As the impact of SB79 on our historic downtown is now known, the designation of a historic district to be placed on the Mountain View local historic register (which would include the downtown historic retail district and adjacent commercial buildings) is now one of the most significant and time-sensitive of the actions needed to preserve the character and vitality of our downtown with the creation of an SB79 local alternative plan.

We request the support of council on this issue as there is no other option if we are to have a historic downtown that preserves the history, identity and vibrancy of our city, particularly in this time of massive urbanization.

6.1 Historic Preservation Ordinance and Historic Register Update -- under New Business, to show you're paying attention to this. Go to: <https://mountainview.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7773852&GUID=51F0BAC3-9E4F-4EF1-B211-80F41B7A93EB>

Thank You,
Jaime Eredia
Mountain View Resident

From: Nancy Rafati
Sent: Thursday, December 4, 2025 6:49 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Please save downtown commercial district

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear STEAMed City Council Board,

I hope you are well. As you may know, Senate Bill 79, effective July 1, 2026, requires that areas within half a mile of a rail stop allow 6–9 story housing, with no City Council vote or community input. This puts our historic downtown at risk of major redevelopment, demolition, and loss of historic downtown.

As a member of the Kiwanis Mountain View and Challenge Team, I would like to share how meaningful our downtown has been to our family. It is where we enjoy local restaurants, meet friends, and have built lasting memories. After work, I often walk through the area and see families enjoying local restaurants, meeting over coffee, and connecting with one another. I personally have wonderful memories in downtown Mountain View, including opening my very first bank account and experiencing the kindness of the community.

Downtown Mountain View also plays an important role for our youth. Many students start their first jobs at the ice cream shops, cafés, and restaurants. It remains one of the most vibrant and welcoming parts of our city.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to preserving Mountain View’s history, character, and quality of life for future generations, so Mountain View stays exceptional.

With gratitude,

Nancy Rafati