

Lopez, Donna

From: Aaron Weber [aaron.s.weber@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 03, 2015 3:51 PM
To: City Council; Lopez, Donna
Subject: Teague Petition: Unneeded

Hello!

I'm writing to note my lack of support for the second part of Charles Teague's petition that's coming up on your agenda. He's advocating that the planning board be given more leeway to deny special permits, but I feel that the current guidelines and amount of discretion are appropriate.

Obviously, a planning board should have some moderate amount of discretion about exceptions to zoning rules. Too much discretion is an invitation to cronyism and arbitrary decision-making. Too little leads to inflexible rules that don't suit the needs of the city. Right now I think we have a pretty good balance.

I am not suggesting that our process is perfect. Teague and many others do have good ideas about ways the city could extract more public amenities from developers in exchange for special permits, but those would be better addressed by adjusting the zoning ordinance or master plan for the city.

Thank you,
Aaron

--

Aaron S. Weber
aaronsweber.com