

From: "Councilmember Dean Francois"
Sent: 07/12/2023 1:58:08 PM (-07:00)
To: "Ron Sharkeez" <ron@sharkeez.net>

Provided to Council
during Public Comment
from Jessica Accamando
8/8/23

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:46:13 AM
To: City Council <citycouncil@hermosabeach.gov>; Suja Lowenthal <suja@hermosabeach.gov>; Carrie Tai <CTai@hermosabeach.gov>
Subject: Last night....

Ray, Justin, Mike, Rob, Dean, Suja and Carrie,

I've attended a lot of City Council meetings over the last few years (almost every meeting this year). I've been called names on public comment, shamed for what I was wearing, accused of hurtful and wrong claims... and yet last night was the most devastating meeting of my Hermosa residency. I woke up today completely empty. I'm crying as I write this and not ashamed of it.

I know it's just about 50 people who mostly don't know what they're talking about. Next time I'm bringing the renters to the meeting. I'm enraged. I know you all know me well enough to know how I feel about this. I'm grateful for your leadership, but I hope that when you discuss this again with residents, that you remember the NIMBYism that's happening here and not cave to the idea of "not here, but maybe over there." My generation lacks housing, period. Our City staff, business staff, and community of volunteers cannot afford to live here. If we surveyed the people in the nonprofits, the people who volunteer at events, the parents, the people who spend their money in our businesses... they are mostly people who cannot afford to buy here. If we continue to give platform to people arguing property values, we are sending a message to the people who make the character of this town.

Anyway, I posted the below on Facebook. I hope you think of me EVERY SINGLE TIME you talk to a homeowner who is mad about a church trying to build some place for a person to live. **That person might be me.**

Last night sucked. I am EMPTY.

If you missed the City Council meeting discussing the housing clement, go watch it.

I know people in here are mad about me saying your disagreement with the POTENTIAL of putting multi-unit housing on the St. Cross properties is NIMBYism, but it is!

Many Hermosa home owners showed up last night to say "not in my back yard." Why? Because a multi-unit building will affect their property value. It will bring in too much traffic. It will congest parking. It's not what they want in their idyllic neighborhood.

Guess what folks, you live in a 1.4 sq mile town. You cannot avoid the future and protect your block from growth. You cannot say "not here, but how about over there."

Our town is 55% renters. We have a majority here... but none of them showed up last night. Why? Because we all know that property values are what matters most to the people screaming "not in my back yard."

I appreciate the good points council members made (and past council members) but we still caved to the argument of "not in my back yard" simply because people wanted it to be in someone else's backyard. We gave them two more weeks to see if they can find someone else's backyard to check the state's boxes. Isn't that infuriating? I LIVE ON REDACTED and I want this to happen and we're so lucky to have St. Cross not only offer to keep their property and keep giving to this community but also want to build housing for someone like me.

Yes, there's charm to Hermosa. Why? Because this was home to surfers, musicians, young people, volleyball players, farmers, dreamers, and TONS of people who lived here because they love the land, but not always because they could afford to buy here. There's a reason in 2023 we're still a mostly renters town. The culture here is eclectic, community-driven, and precious.

The average age of a Hermosa resident is 40. I think only one person who spoke last night was 40 or younger and he was on the right side of the conversation.

What's even more frustrating is that I didn't recognize a single person who ranted about St. Cross building a multi-unit building. None of those people serve on the handful of nonprofits I know. None are donors to the community events we organize. None have run for Council or sit on commissions. None are Chamber members. I've never even seen any of them at Council meetings. If community is so important to you, how come you're not involved in your community?

I DESERVE TO LIVE HERE. I cannot believe I have to say that out loud. BUT I DESERVE TO LIVE HERE. I'm livid.

WE MUST BUILD MORE HOUSING.

<https://fortune.com/.../housing-market-affordability.../>

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