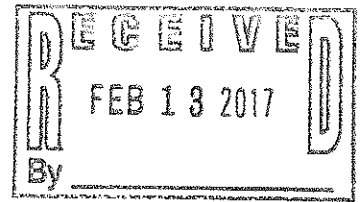


*Claremont Monthly Meeting
of the
Religious Society of Friends*



To the City of Pomona Planning Commission

February 10, 2017]

Re: The Neighborhood Garden at 1196 South San Antonio Avenue

The neighborhood garden at 1196 South San Antonio Ave is important to the the City of Pomona. There is nothing like this garden in the neighborhood, city or in neighboring cities (including where I live in Claremont). It is an amazing organic garden but also much more than a garden. The residents at 1196 South San Antonio Ave have a mission to educate their community about the many benefits of transforming urban and suburban lands into sources of natural beauty and food productivity in environmentally enhancing ways. This is a major service and inspiration to the community. I would hate to see their important work seriously limited or impaired by the proposed construction of new structures next door.

In 2014, members of our congregation, the Claremont Friends Meeting, were concerned about our excessive use of water for grass maintenance . We decided to change a large area of irrigated lawn, about 7,000 square feet, which we shared with the Pilgrim Place retirement home - our neighbor who agreed to join this project .

Through one of our congregation who helps out at the garden, we met Rishi Kumar and his associates. We learned of the very practical ways that we could immediately begin to take better care of our land through urban ecological farming. We invited them to work with us to transform and rejuvenate our landscape, not just saving water but putting the water we still used to much better use.

The process began in the fall of 2015 and was carried out gradually mostly by volunteers and during weekend workshops organized with the help of the people from the neighborhood garden. Together we transformed the lawn-based landscape into an ecological garden, designed to to harvest and store rainfall, provide habitat for wildlife, and grow food for the community. Through these workshops, we covered over the grass, spread multiple layers of mulch and natural fertilizer, converted the watering system, and planted over 50 fruit trees of more than 15 different species from Avocados to Tangerines. We also planted multiple California natives.

Our water usage fell by half even though we still had a substantial area of grass remaining on a different part of the property. Most of the cost of this transformation was covered by a rebate from the Metropolitan District Water Authority.

The restoration of the land created a place of natural beauty and peacefulness. Many have commented that the new landscape is an oasis of tranquility for them as they pass by. We came to see this approach as consistent with our spiritual values and the best form of stewardship for the property which was our responsibility.

We know that city governments are concerned about preserving and enhancing the property values within their community for the benefit of their citizens as well as a source of needed tax revenues. Value is often measured by the dollar value of the properties.

I believe the neighborhood garden at 1196 S San Antonio Ave provides a different and equally important form of value to city of Pomona and surrounding communities - educating and inspiring others to become more aware of possibilities to make better use of the land. It can be regenerated and transformed to become more alive, diverse, productive and beautiful. I invite you to envision a broader and more comprehensive form of development - to design our human environment to become one with nature.

Sincerely,

Wesley Mason, Clerk of the Sustainability and Administration Committee,
Claremont Friends Meeting, Claremont, California

Elias, Sandra

From: Kyle Brown <kylebrown977@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2017 5:54 PM
To: Elias, Sandra
Cc: Lazzaretto, Mark
Subject: Fwd: Planning Commission Item #2 on 1/11/17

Received in advance of Wednesday's PC meeting.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laurette Lavin <rette@handmadeipi.com>
Date: January 9, 2017 at 4:36:59 PM PST
To: kylebrown977@yahoo.com
Subject: Planning Commission Item #2 on 1/11/17
Reply-To: Laurette Lavin <rette@handmadeipi.com>

Dear Dr. Brown,

I own a home in Lincoln Park and I am the Volunteer Coordinator for "Lincoln Park Pesticide Free."

I wanted to urge you to vote AGAINST granting a conditional use permit for the project at 1198-1236 S. San Antonio. I am strongly against two story apartments being built at that location because of the substantial negative impact they will have on the vegetable gardens at 1196 S. San Antonio due to the shade that they will create. The Kumar family has the most amazing urban garden in probably all of Pomona. It is an inspiration and learning environment to many of us who strive to build our own backyard vegetable gardens and spread the urban gardening movement all around Pomona. It is a movement that is ONLY good for Pomona land and Pomona residents, and I see it as one of the keys to Pomona's future success. Please don't destroy the fruit of much labor and love by voting to grant this permit.

Sincerely,

Laurette Lavin

366 Lincoln Avenue

Pomona, CA 91767

Elias, Sandra

From: Kyle D. Brown <kylebrown977@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 11:45 AM
To: Elias, Sandra
Cc: Lazzaretto, Mark
Subject: Fwd: proposed project at 1198 and 1236 South Antonio Ave.
Attachments: letter to Commissioner Brown.pdf

I did not receive this letter until 8:45 this AM (Thursday, January 12th, 2017). But this should be shared with all Commissioners when this item returns to the agenda.

Kyle

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: proposed project at 1198 and 1236 South Antonio Ave.
Date: Thu, 12 Jan 2017 16:45:47 +0000
From: Eileen Wallis <evwallis@cpp.edu>
To: kylebrown977@yahoo.com <kylebrown977@yahoo.com>

Dear Commissioner Brown:

Please see the attached letter about the proposed project at 1198 and 1236 South San Antonio Ave. in Pomona.
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Eileen V. Wallis
Professor and Chair
History Department
CPP



CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

History Department

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

January 10, 2017

Dear Commissioner Brown,

My name is Eileen V. Wallis and I am a board member of the Historical Society of the Pomona Valley as well as chair of the History Department at Cal Poly Pomona. I am contacting you regarding the proposed development at the properties of 1198 South San Antonio Avenue and 1236 South San Antonio Avenue, which is seeking a Conditional Use Permit for development. As a board member of the Historical Society, I am saddened to see the continued depletion of Pomona's historical character by the development of townhomes and condos that do not reflect Pomona's spirit or culture and only provide profit to corporations and individuals based outside of the city's borders

I further oppose this development because of the clear and undeniable detrimental effects on neighboring properties. The projects two primary neighbors are historical homes which are being used by their residents for their historical use: gardening. Long skinny lots such as those in the project's neighborhood were originally developed as homestead lots, and these neighbors are returning their properties to their original intended use, bringing a part of Pomona's history back to life and adding to the unique character of the neighborhood. The proposed development would severely hinder these neighbors gardening activities, which have become points of community connection and security within the neighborhood.

I urge you and all other Planning Commissioners to stop this development or at least limit it to housing fitting the historic character of the neighborhood. Please also pass this message along to other Planning Commissioners before tomorrow's Public Hearing.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eileen Wallis', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Eileen Wallis
History Department
CPP
3801 W. Temple Ave.
Pomona, CA 91768