

Spediacci, Sheri

Subject: FW: 8 thomas appeal

From: michael glynn [<mailto:mqconstructionservices@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 5:22 PM
To: Spediacci, Sheri
Subject: Re: 8 thomas appeal

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing this letter to you regarding the proposed house at 8 Thomas in Brisbane. I have followed the application through the planning commission process from when the previous owner obtained permission through when the new owner obtained permission with a 4 to zero vote . I have to say that I have never met the property owner so my interest is only in seeing everyone getting treated fairly.

I believe the Ridgeline ordinance though imperfect is as close an instrument we have to negotiate through a situation such as this. I have great sympathy for the property owner on both occasions as they strive to accommodate a thorough and demanding planning commission who are trying to minimize the visual impact of the house and appease members of the public who are vehemently opposed to the project.

I have to say that I have been so impressed with how the planning commission has handled this task before them and as they weighed this application. It is an example of Democracy in action where the commission hears impassioned pleas against this project from neighbors and friends alike but can look at the law and how it is written and make the only fair and just decision possible. I can only imagine the pressure they were put under to do otherwise .

I have to say that I was amazed when I heard that the decision was appealed and the city council would decide the matter. I can only imagine the stress, frustration and expense this action will put on the property owner. It really undermines the entire process that because a few active and very vocal members of the community who hold no sworn office can undermine the unanimous decision of four appointed planning commission, who over many meetings with input from paid city staff formed a decision. If those who oppose this project had paid the fee normally required then this would not be an issue. This sends a poor message to the planning commission who give freely of their time and work hard to make the correct decisions. It really belittles their work.

I believe the city councilors who have appealed this decision have some explaining to do. The reasons they have listed are weak and without merit and their connection to those who oppose the project leads me to suspect cronyism or favoritism at best.

It costs money to hold this appeal, some of which comes from my many taxes that I pay to the city. I want topics such as the baylands, how we can improve our schools whose scores continue to fall and other important issues.

This council should not grant favors to a select few who are not happy about a planning decision. It does not matter greatly if they lose credibility as nobody voted for them or they have not sworn an oath to serve the entire community. In absence of the normal appeal fee being paid by someone I would ask the council to abandon this appeal and issue an apology to the property owner. This would go some way in restoring many peoples faith in the process.

thank you all for reading this letter.