

October 8, 2016

Dear Councilman Gloria:

I was one of the many Hillcrest residents that spent about 4 hours at the planning commission meeting two days ago on October 6, to input my 2 minutes' worth of comments.

I am disappointed that developers seem to have gotten all they wanted in contradiction to the wishes of a clear majority of uptown residents.

Some outlandish claims made by the Gateway Group of developers were never even questioned by planning commissioners:

a) Property owners now part of the Gateway Group - claimed they "did not know" about the Uptown Planners' work on proposing density redistribution and height limits until the last minute!!! This work has been on-going for 6-7 years and it is unthinkable that major owners of land to be impacted would not be interested enough to be aware of this work.

b) With height limits in the range of 65', the Gateway Properties could not be developed in a profitable way and would probably remain undeveloped!!! (veiled blackmail? Give us what we want or else!!)

Such a statement was boldly made by a Gateway spokesperson with absolutely NO support or justification. It is more likely that the Gateway seeks to make 2-3 times more profit by having height limits double or triple what is proposed by Uptown Planners. Several other developers in the area have evidently done well enough with 4-6 story buildings.

c) Taller buildings will lead to more affordable housing.
Tell that to property buyers and tenants in Manhattan. Or try and rent in one of the many San Diego high rise buildings.

If you ask around you will find a preponderance of Hillcrest residents that are against the ludicrous height limits sought by the Gateway group.

Actually a survey has been conducted, the results of which were presented at yesterday's meeting.

The survey showed that 80% of the people who responded want a height limit of six stories or less. A copy of the survey is available should you wish to see it.

Not to mention that several votes by Uptown Planners have consistently indicated a preference for 65' height limits. The last vote being on Tuesday October 4 (11 in favor of 65' limits and 2 against - 85% in favor of 65')

Please, Councilman Gloria, lend your voice to the people you represent in Uptown. Insist on a plan that limits building heights to 65' to preserve the unique character of Hillcrest.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration.

Regards,
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