From: [redacted]
To: Le, Thai-Chau
Subject: RE: The Proposed Temple
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:58:06 AM

[External Email]

Hi Thai,
As a follow-on comment, I took my usual route today out Rathmann Drive and up Norwood Ave to go to my local coffee shop. As I got to Norwood/Ruby intersection, I had a startling thought. Now that the property has been cleared and the covered fences blocking view of the property have been removed, I now get a clear view of the property, sloping up eastward. I had a visualization of the proposed Khmer Buddhist Temple on the lot and thought "OMG, it could actually happen". The picture in my mind was horrifying. A huge imposing structure piercing the beautiful residential neighborhood I have enjoyed for 35 years, right in the center of the Evergreen foothills. This is quite different from the Sikh Temple that is situated way up the hill up Aborn Ave, on a large piece of property that I do not see on a daily basis. Allowing the proposed Temple to go is not only wrong but also a big mistake for all the reasons I identified in my previous e-mail.
Thanks for listening,
Paul Rosati

On 06/03/2021 3:55 PM Le, Thai-Chau <thai-chau.le@sanjoseca.gov> wrote:
Hi Paul,

Thank you for your comments! This email is to confirm that I have received your comments, have forwarded it on to our environmental consultants for their preparation of the EIR, and will have this retained for the public record.

Best regards,
Thai

From: PAUL ROSATI [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Le, Thai-Chau <Thai-Chau.Le@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: The Proposed Temple

[External Email]

Dear Thai-Chau,

I attended the zoom call on Wednesday night but I did not speak. I wish to provide my comments via this e-mail.

(1) Religious facilities in Evergreen foothills are offset from streets or off the beaten path so they are not pronounced to the residential neighborhood. The Temple will be up to 64 feet high (equivalent of 4 stories) and clearly stick out. Other religious facilities are all on large plots of land. The Temple is proposed for a small plot of land.

(2) Pastor John Goldstein made very good points based on his experience. It will be hard for the Temple to limit attendance to 300 people. The Temple proponents said last night the desire is to grow and make Temple available to future generation. The Pastor said his #1 wish today would be for more land. Shoe-horning a Temple into an undersized piece of land from the beginning is not wise.

(3) Parking at the Temple is undersized and I have no faith in an offsite shuttle service. People are expedient creatures. They will park on the street and into surrounding neighborhood. I have lived 2 blocks away on Rathmann Drive for 35 years. What has changed over time is single family homes have been occupied by multiple families with multiple cars. Many homes do not use their garages to park cars anymore. My street has many more cars parking in the street than in years past. What I foresee as a result of the Temple is even more cars fighting for space on surrounding streets including my street on Rathmann Drive. And the Temple members will walk up to Norwood/Ruby and have to cross a very dangerous intersection that have cars speeding well above the posted 35 mph speed limit and blowing right through the stop signs. This is a big safety issue.

(4) The denial of the previous desire to build 6 homes and now potentially approving a larger use and more pronounced structure via the magic of changing the rules by rezoning to PQP is inconsistent and unfair.

(5) Construction is going to be a big inconvenience, noisy and a hassle. Operation of a completed Temple is going to be problematic with only 1 driveway as access. Traffic will back up. People already drive well over the speed limit on Ruby. Drivers are impatient and will have nowhere to go with only 2 lane road. We will be creating a toxic cocktail for road rage.

I am not a racist and I support religious freedom but not at the expense of negatively effecting my life and neighborhood that I have enjoyed over the last 35 years. I have nothing against the Temple or the members but I oppose construction of the Temple at that location for the above-mentioned reasons.

The zoom call was very well conducted by the professionals involved. The process is clear. I have full confidence the Planning Division will come up with an objective recommendation. I am concerned that the City Council will make the final decision. I have heard that the wealthy backer of the Temple is a friend of Mayor Sam Liccardo. I like Sam. I voted for him. I am a Bellarmine graduate too. But I know the reality of how friendships work and that concerns me.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Rosati

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