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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 2:54 PM  
**To:** Petaluma Planning <[petalumaplanning@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:petalumaplanning@cityofpetaluma.org)>  
**Cc:** [heidibauer2000@gmail.com](mailto:heidibauer2000@gmail.com) <[heidibauer2000@gmail.com](mailto:heidibauer2000@gmail.com)>; Kendall Sawyer <[ksawyer@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:ksawyer@cityofpetaluma.org)>; [bmhooper1@gmail.com](mailto:bmhooper1@gmail.com) <[bmhooper1@gmail.com](mailto:bmhooper1@gmail.com)>; [arider@archamy.com](mailto:arider@archamy.com) <[arider@archamy.com](mailto:arider@archamy.com)>; [rwhisman@yahoo.com](mailto:rwhisman@yahoo.com) <[rwhisman@yahoo.com](mailto:rwhisman@yahoo.com)>; [sandi.lee.potter@gmail.com](mailto:sandi.lee.potter@gmail.com) <[sandi.lee.potter@gmail.com](mailto:sandi.lee.potter@gmail.com)>; [rogermcerlane@mac.com](mailto:rogermcerlane@mac.com) <[rogermcerlane@mac.com](mailto:rogermcerlane@mac.com)>; [darrenracusen@gmail.com](mailto:darrenracusen@gmail.com) <[darrenracusen@gmail.com](mailto:darrenracusen@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** EKN Appellation Hotel

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My name is [REDACTED], and I'm with UNITE HERE Local 2. We're the hotel worker's union in the North Bay, representing workers at the Petaluma Sheraton and other Sonoma County hotels, as well as 15,000 members across the Bay Area.

We urge you not to amend the zoning code to let EKN development build a taller hotel. If Petaluma is going to change its zoning to allow for more density, it should be to build affordable housing, not to bend over backwards to help a hotel developer make its project pencil.

As the hotel workers' union, we believe hospitality can be a key part of a sustainable economy, but the status quo in Sonoma County is not working. Many hotels cater to the ultrawealthy while their employees make just above minimum wage.

Our members know first-hand how hard it is to afford to live in Petaluma and surrounding areas. They fight for fair contracts with wage increases, but these raises at work get eaten up by rising rent. [70.4% of low income renters in Petaluma](#), which corresponds to a single person making \$40,000- 65,000, or roughly \$20-30 an hour, are rent burdened, meaning they pay over 30% of their income in rent. 34.3% pay over half of their income in rent. Very low income renters, which would include a single person working a full time minimum wage job, have it even worse, with 80% rent burdened and 60% paying over half their income in rent. This is the reality for workers in the service industry in Petaluma.

Petaluma, and Sonoma County as a whole, rely on hospitality as a major pillar of the economy-- [13% of the nonfarm employment](#)-- yet they don't provide sufficient affordable housing for workers to be able to live nearby. This results in long commute times and less sense of community.

Petaluma doesn't need another luxury hotel which will continue the cycle of high rents and low wages. It needs affordable housing so the people who work here can live here too.

Best,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2023 2:47 PM

**To:** Powell, Greg <GPOWELL@cityofpetaluma.org>; Castellano, Isabel <icastellano@cityofpetaluma.org>

**Cc:** -- City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofpetaluma.org>; Cader-Thompson, Janice <jcaderthompson@cityofpetaluma.org>; Cochran, Brian <BCochran@cityofpetaluma.org>; Frank, Rhianna <rfrank@cityofpetaluma.org>

**Subject:** Hotel Weaver questions

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Hello Mr. Powell and Ms. Castellano,

I'm wondering (and hoping not) if the Hotel Weaver build is a done deal. Also, It's not entirely clear to me what the meeting tomorrow night regarding the hotel weaver is for— can people voice their opinion on the building of the hotel?

Can residents come and complain and voice their opposition to the hotel. I hope so because I and most people who live on the west side are adamantly opposed. Even tourist don't like the idea bc it will ruin the small town atmosphere of Petaluma.

Will Petaluma end up being another tourist trap town like HEALDSBURG or CARMEL with soaring property values and busloads of tourists???? So much for responsible climate action!

No. 1 it's big and ugly and entirely not consistent with the vernacular of downtown Petaluma. OMG, there are so many fabulous architects in the world—and that's what they came up with????

No. 2: Petaluma cannot handle the traffic problems that this hotel will create.

No. 3 The streets and sidewalks on the west side are in horrible repair. I mean like third-world country bad! Your city manager joked to me that Petaluma streets and sidewalks have been rated the worst in the Bay Area. Ha-ha—but she offered no solution or mentioned any long term plan for the fixes.

No. 4. It's almost hilarious that your mayor for environmental reasons says there will be no more gas stations built in Petaluma. What a joke...yet you can build a friggin hotel that will bring thousands and thousands of cars here a year—no to mention the ridiculous amount of energy.

No 5. Does the city or the state plan on giving these developers tax breaks? I soooooooo hope not.

No 6. This hotel will be the beginning of the end as petaluma as we know it.

No 7. The only people making money on this thing are the developers.

#### **Solutions to this project:**

Stop it immediately

Build a smaller hotel. NOT 6 floors.

Build over on the east side with the Marriott and the Hampton inn.

Do something creative with existing buildings like the old bank at western and petaluma blvd s or the old department store on Kentucky.

Let's get the developers off the city council immediately.

FIX THE STREETS AND SIDEWALKS and corner curbs on the west side before the city ends up in multiple lawsuits bc someone is gravely injured.

There's a big lot on Petaluma blvd north near F. Build it there and make it half the height and size.

This project is a big energy and money sink, why not fix and use what we have. Otherwise, the new Petaluma city limit signs will be saying **"HEY THERE, WELCOME TO PETALUMA— JUST ANOTHER TOURIST TRAP OF A TOWN!"**

Please respond immediately.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

