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June 7, 2023

Petaluma City Council  
11 English Street  
Petaluma, CA 94952

RE: EKN Appellation (Hotel Weaver) Project and Proposed Building Form Overlay for Specified Area in Downtown Petaluma.

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to address the above mention project. We have approximately 12 hotels in Petaluma, in a 14.52 sq mile radius, we are not Chicago or San Francisco, nor do we want to be. Having another hotel in downtown Petaluma with 93 rooms and 58 parking spaces is insane and overkill. Where are all the additional cars for the remaining 35 rooms going to park including all the staff? A five-story hotel in part of the town where the highest building is maybe three-stories is going to take away from the downtown charm, especially if it does not match the historical buildings.

Parking in downtown is already atrocious and you want to add a hotel without enough parking for all the guests and staff – ridiculous. Not only are you wanting to put a five-story hotel with not enough parking, you allowed for Amy's Kitchen to put their headquarters downtown without any parking, and Crooked Goat. What do you expect for all the downtown residents to do that do not have driveways? Do you expect them to park far away from their homes? How are they going to carry groceries or get their children (especially babies and toddlers) inside safely? What about all the businesses that have employees who can't walk long distance or have a disability that requires them to park close to work?

Again, we are not Chicago or San Francisco, nor do we want to be. Stop trying to cram everything downtown.

Maybe find an alternate location to build another more modern downtown on the Eastside – taking into account the residents that live there and the havoc it would cause. Purchase 131 Liberty Street (the bare lot between At&t and the dentist) and make it into a permit only parking garage specifically for employees within the block to park (giving a specific amount of permits per business). As it is, Crooked Goat and Acme Burger customers are flooding the near by neighborhoods making it difficult for the residents to find parking close to their homes. Making Howard Street a 2-hour limit street with residential permits is not the answer.

We are a "small town" historical city, changing the planning zones or building height requirements is going to take away the "small town" charm that everyone has loved for many years and the reason tourists come to visit.

Let's not forget about all the traffic that these changes will bring. Traffic through downtown is already a nightmare and adding more businesses and housing is going to further the issue.

Stop trying to make this city car free, people are not going to get rid of their cars. Making public transportation more accessible may help reduce the traffic, but it will not get rid of the vehicles.

Sincerely concerned residents,

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