

From: Brenna Pratt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 1:54 PM
To: -- City Council <CityCouncil@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: Concerned Petaluma Resident

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City Council,

I am learning about some things that are going on in our city and I am very concerned. I am a 4th generation Petaluma resident living on the west side, my fiancée and I are in our 30's, and I am finding out that a good majority if not all of our city planning department is being run by a for-profit consultancy group (M-group). Finding out that this issue has even been taken into consideration by the Sonoma County Grand Jury... I am stunned. Our planning department should not be run by people who were brought here as a convenience and cost-saving measure, sure they may have lived here for a while now after 14 years or whatever it is now but these people do not care about our community.

After digging more I also come to find out that businesses that closed during the pandemic have been unable to reopen despite their wishes because they can not get city approval for needed repairs. Their businesses sit empty and are now labeled "blight" by one of your members. This is ridiculous. I want you to know that myself, my fiancée, and our friends have worked very hard to afford to live in this beautiful quaint town, and to see it start to fill up with cheap track homes, huge chain hotels, and ultramodern ugly apartments breaks my heart.

I am adequately against the city overlays, the hotel, and a for-profit company running our planning department. I sincerely hope this message resonates with you all. Please do the right thing for Petaluma. And for the record, I never received this "survey" that was apparently sent out saying 63% of Petaluma wants the hotel or whatever it was asking.

I would also like to say I am not opposed to all growth, I actually thought the idea of a hotel with a rooftop bar was a cool idea until I saw the design... In what universe does that look good in our downtown? I also do not think it needs to be so large... Healdsburg, Sonoma, Napa, and all the other cute towns in the region seem to manage to keep their buildings in the spirit of their towns so why can't we? If downtown Petaluma doesn't look cute and quaint anymore I think that will seriously hurt our tourism and downtown businesses.

Sincerely,
Brenna Pratt