

From: [Cindy](#)
To: -- City Council; editor@arguscourier.com
Cc: [Uriel Orozco](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 12:08:51 AM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2023-09-17 at 10.30.26 PM.png](#)

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

Dear City Council Members, Planning Commissioners and Editor of the Argus-Courier:

I live in the Oakhill-Brewster neighborhood and am going on record as being firmly against the currently proposed downtown hotel with the attached proposal for a 14-block building form overlay.

The hotel is out of scale and character with our unique and charming town of Petaluma. It should either be brought into scale and character or built in a different location. I came across the rendering below, and if this is accurate....WHAT?!? It's not only too tall, but the designers have not set back nor stepped back the building to reduce its mass. It is truly an ugly behemoth that looks entirely out of place! The drawing perspective also conveniently omits buildings beyond it, which would further emphasize the absurdity of scale.

As the executive who planned and delivered the \$1.5 billion UCSF Women's, Children's and Cancer hospitals in San Francisco, I can personally attest to having listened to and responded to the concerns of the community through myriad planning and design meetings, workshops and many design iterations - none of which I am seeing in earnest with this project. Why not?

Could there be misaligned interests here? Out-of-town developers + a for-profit consulting group staffing the planning department and incentivized to approve projects?

I don't think any of us wants to see Petaluma make history with these headlines: ***"Historic California town ruins its character building a giant downtown hotel and approving a 14-block area for mega-buildings! " or "Petaluma's charm destroyed by developers and a for-profit planning department; why didn't anyone stop it?"***

I urge you to not approve the currently proposed, out-of-scale, out-of-character hotel, nor the overlay that would extend over 14 blocks of our historic downtown. Please listen to the people who love Petaluma and want to preserve its charm, history and integrity. This is a critical moment to rise to the occasion and not allow a development that is out of conformance with our general plan.

(And, It's probably not something you would want as a legacy.)

Cindy Lima

Petaluma

