

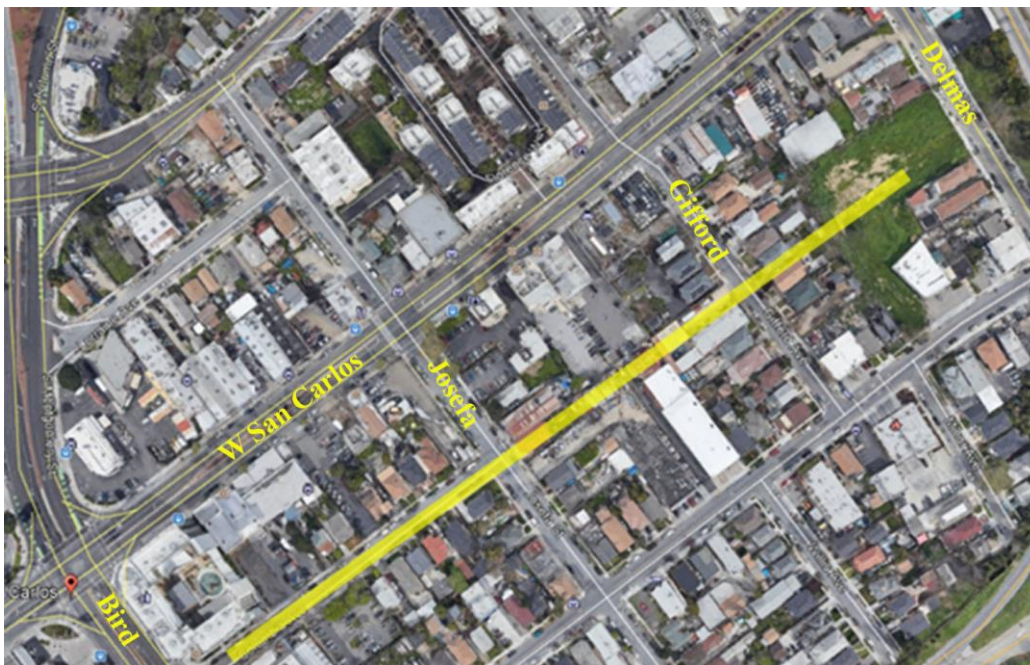
City of San José
Mayor Sam Liccardo
City Manager David Sykes
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

December 21, 2020

RE: Update on PBCE interaction and community engagement

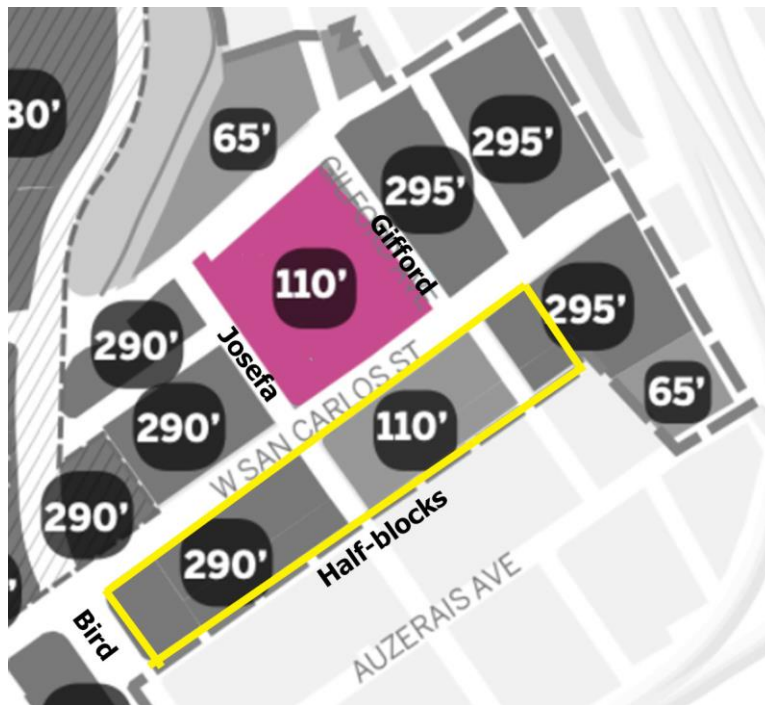
The Diridon Area Neighborhood Group (DANG) has been striving to find common ground with the City of San Jose Planning and City Manager Office (CMO). It has proven extremely difficult with the negative attitude and demeanor demonstrated by Planning and CMO staff in the last six months.

The first problematic issue is the conversation relating to the Diridon Station Area Plan heights. DANG worked hard to show a path forward that would allow for the density needed for a vibrant area and a 15-minute neighborhood and not destroy the urban fabric of existing neighborhoods. The DANG concerns with height are limited to the areas adjacent to existing neighborhoods. Originally it was only 4% of the DSAP area. As of today, we are concerned with only 3 half-blocks.



David Sykes, City Manager
City of San José

Planning staff decided to ignore the offer from DANG to raise the heights in two areas of the updated plan to help offset any development losses in our 4% area. The first area is the 110' section at Gifford and W San Carlos. The neighborhoods would not have an issue of raising the heights there. The second area is in the vicinity of McEvoy/Dupont where Planning shows 140'.



Planning staff declined to have a dialogue of our concerns after their final heights were published in their CEQA documents. Instead, Planning decided to attack DANG in a public meeting. Staff made a statement that DANG's 4% calculation was wrong and that it was in the 20-25% range. Harvey Darnell asked for the documentation of that fact. Staff did not send the information, so DANG followed up and the Director Hughey stated that they spoke a bit prematurely as their analysis is not yet finalized. There was not an apology for providing false information at a community meeting and she did not address the continuing negative tone towards DANG. Instead, she asked us to justify our 4% calculation. This was not a comment intended to achieve consensus, but rather an unprofessional retaliation. The e-mail response is below.

David Sykes, City Manager
City of San José



Tue 12/8/2020 8:59 AM

Hughey, Rosalynn <Rosalynn.Hughey@sanjoseca.gov>

RE: DSAP percentages

To Bob Staedler; Ruano, Jose

Cc Manford, Robert; Rood, Timothy; Walesh, Kim; Kline, Kelly; Ramos, Christina M; Groen, Mary Anne

You forwarded this message on 12/8/2020 9:58 AM.

Hello Bob – staff along with our consultant team are reviewing the DANG calculation to confirm our understanding. We spoke a bit prematurely at the community meeting last Thursday as the analysis is not yet finalized and when it is, we do want to review it with the DANG—particularly reviewing the factors of the calculation, e.g., total land area in the DSAP versus area of redevelopment opportunity sites. We anticipate that the analysis will be completed by the end of next week. Perhaps we can set up a call to review with you. Also, please feel free to send us any data/analysis regarding the 4% calculation.

Best regards,
Rosalynn

DANG requests a high-definition PDF version (with a date) of the height map to share with the public. The only version that we can find is buried in the CEQA documents. DANG also requests a public statement be made to correct this inaccuracy at the next SAAG meeting.

The second troubling issue that we would like to bring to your attention is the Planning staff response to the Delmas Park Neighborhood Association for Planning Commission Agenda on December 8, 2020, Item 8.a. GP19-012, C19-042, CP20-019, T20-020. There was a question raised about waiting until the new CEQA approvals are complete before approving the project, staff rejected this concern and made the following statement:

Staff Response:

1. This block contains a mix of uses, in addition to residences, such as the existing used car lot, a light industrial business, and an auto repair shop, and is surrounded by other commercial, light industrial, and residential uses as described in further detail in the Staff Report.
2. The environmental document being referring to is actually the ongoing new DSAP EIR, which is not connected or associated with the Downtown EIR.

Staff's response is flatly incorrect, they made a rambling unclear statement to correct the above statement at the hearing, but did not correct the letter to the community. It is unclear to the neighboring community if the project was analyzed correctly due to the fact that the staff member did not understand what was being updated. This item should have been deferred to a later date so staff could correct their letter and have the senior Planning staff and City Attorney's office review the analysis. This creates distrust and hostility within the public and

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surrounding neighborhoods. DANG would like to have a report showing that the project was analyzed correctly and have it made public.

DANG requests a January meeting with the Mayor and City Manager to discuss how to move forward in bridging the trust gap that City staff has created with the community. It is time to drop the hostility towards the true key community group, DANG. The juvenile attitude displayed by staff needs to stop and reconciliation needs to begin immediately. Please let us know when we can schedule this meeting.

Sincerely,

Kathy Sutherland
Laura Winter
Edward Saum
Helen Chapman
Mary Pizzo
Kevin Christman

Bert Weaver
Sarah Springer
Harvey Darnell
Bill Rankin
Norma Ruiz

cc: Mayor Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Sergio Jimenez
Councilmember David Cohen
Councilmember Dev Davis
Councilmember Sylvia Arenas
Councilmember Matt Mahan
Roselyn Hughey
Kelly Kline
Toni Taber

Vice Mayor Chappie Jones
Councilmember Raul Peralez
Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco
Councilmember Maya Esparza
Councilmember Pam Foley
Lee Wilcox
David Keyon
Kim Walesh
Timothy Rood