

Mads Odom

From: Lisa Pelletier [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2023 1:48 AM
To: Sarah Schaefer; Kimberley White; Stacy Atkins-Salazar; Meredith Matthews; Alex Stillman
Cc: Karen Diemer; David Loya
Subject: Please hold another forum and reject Gateway reversals

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Dear Arcata City Council Members,

With all due respect to Councilmembers Atkins and Stillman, I strongly object to the decision by an outside law firm to reverse the decision of the FPPC that determined that Councilmembers Atkins and Salazar can't participate in the decision because they own property within 500 feet of the Gateway Area.

It's pretty clear by now that over 90% of the GAP property will be devoted to market rate housing. So let's get real: That's whatever the market will bear, so that means that anyone of lessor means will be driven out. That includes students, teachers, seniors housing and people of color.

The GAP area is a desirable part of town, due its proximity to stores, schools and the main Plaza. Councilmembers with vested interests like Alex and Stacy may stand to profit hugely, as the Gateway Plan is expected to grow due to their investments. But I don't wish to dwell on them.

Is this just a recipe for gentrification? If so we need to ask ourselves, what exactly is involved in the GAP? Is this just a plan to enrich developers? Why isn't there more housing for low income people, like students, the homeless, and POC? Why is over 90% of the housing market rate.(which means, whatever the market will bear?). Who are you shutting out and relegating to the sidelines? Students? Seniors, POC? No one who can afford those market rate rent (And you like to talk all the while that you're enriching developers? I'm sorry, but it's an important question. I'm looking forward to your response.

Respectfully,
Lisa Pelletier