

Mendez, Leslie

From: thea becker [theabecker@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 9:59 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: 1955-1975 Shattuck Ava. Opinion

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Mendez,
I would like to strongly voice my opposition to the proposed Residential an Commercial building plan for this block. I have frequented the business and restaurants for years and established relationships within the businesses and feel that the planned structure would greatly diminish the value and quality of Berkeley if implemented. The importance of the local, small businesses and shops of that block must be acknowledged!
Please take my opinion into consideration!
Thank you!
Sincerely, Thea Becker
510-759-1402
Sent from my iPad

Mendez, Leslie

From: Connie Heller [cagampangheller@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Fwd: Berkeley Vacuum Center/2108 Berkeley Way

I forgot to include my address in my correspondence below.

3020 Buena Vista Way
Berkeley, CA 94708
510-981-1785

best,
connie

Connie Cagampang Heller
cagampangheller@gmail.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: Connie Heller <isaturtle@yahoo.com>
Date: March 13, 2014 11:01:36 AM PDT
To: lmendez@cityofberkeley.info
Bcc: berkeleyvacuum@yahoo.com
Subject: **Berkeley Vacuum Center/2108 Berkeley Way**

Dear Ms. Mendez,

I am writing to share how disappointed I am to hear that there is proposed construction that will displace Berkeley Vacuum Center. I have been going to Berkeley Vacuum since I bought my first sewing machine while attending Berkeley High School in the 1980s and I would be very sad to see them go.

Berkeley needs its small businesses to remain a vital, livable city. We all know that small businesses cannot afford to be displaced for the duration of construction and that a business like Berkeley Vacuum cannot afford the costs associated with relocating. Unless developers are required to cover *all* of the costs of relocation, approving demolition of 2108 Berkeley Way will destroy yet another valuable and needed Berkeley business.

Best,
Connie

Connie Cagampang Heller
isaturtle@yahoo.com

Mendez, Leslie

From: Catherine Lerza [cathylorza@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:05 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Demolition of 2108 Berkeley Way

Dear Ms. Mendez

I am writing because I am really distressed and disappointed that proposed demolition and new construction will displace Berkeley Vacuum and other vital small businesses on that block. Berkeley Vacuum is a unique and important small business, the only place I can buy vacuum cleaner bags or get my sewing machine repaired in the city. Berkeley Vacuum is the kind of family owned small business that makes our city what it is -- and the kind that is way too rapidly disappearing. We don't need another multi-story commercial or residential building downtown. There are so many already built or proposed --and from what I can see, the street level retail/commercial space is too often empty because the businesses displaced can't afford the new rents. I am sick of seeing empty spaces where locally owned businesses used to be. Please don't make 2108 Berkeley Way another in this depressing, unnecessary story. Unless developers are forced to pay for relocation of existing businesses and/or provide rent subsidies so businesses can return to their former locations, the city should not approve this demolition and construction.

Please help our city retain its ability to support the small businesses that make us what we are. I shop local because I want my city to walk the talk of local, sustainable and affordable. I hope the city government will do the same.

Thank you,

Catherine Lerza

--
Catherine Lerza
Catherine Lerza Consulting
1340 Curtis Street
Berkeley CA 94702
[t] 510-421-1432

Mendez, Leslie

From: Michael O [tmiso@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:46 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Cc: cagampangheller@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Berkeley Vacuum Center/2108 Berkeley Way

I would like to add my voice to that of Connie Heller. I too have been a customer at the Berkeley Vacuum Center for over 25 years.

Michael O'Day

34 Brookside Avenue
Berkeley, California 94705

1-510-420-5742
tmiso@yahoo.com

--- On Thu, 3/13/14, Connie Heller <cagampangheller@gmail.com> wrote:

> From: Connie Heller <cagampangheller@gmail.com>
> Subject: Fwd: Berkeley Vacuum Center/2108 Berkeley Way
> To: "Ed" <ehertzog@lmi.net>, "Donna Kodama" <donna.kodama@gmail.com>,
> "Boku" <boku@urbanvoice.org>, "Joy" <joyontheprecipice@gmail.com>,
> "Will Marston" <marstonwill@gmail.com>, "Ann Dallman"
> <anndallman@gmail.com>, "Anne Nesbet" <nesbet@berkeley.edu>, "Eric
> Naiman" <Naiman@berkeley.edu>, lalashu@aol.com, "Nancy Fenstermacher"
> <Nancyfdds@gmail.com>, "nancy newman" <nancydancesnow@gmail.com>,
> szammith@netzero.net, "norma myers" <BillNorma@lmi.net>, "Michael O"
> <tmiso@yahoo.com>
> Date: Thursday, March 13, 2014, 12:10 PM Friends and avid users of
> vacuum cleaners!!
> I hope you will join me in resisting demolition of
> 2108 Berkeley Way.best,connie
>
> Begin forwarded message:
> From:
> Connie
> Heller <isaturtle@yahoo.com>
> Date:
> March 13,
> 2014 11:01:36 AM PDT
> To:
> lmendez@cityofberkeley.info
> Bcc:
> berkeleyvacuum@yahoo.com
> Subject:
> Berkeley
> Vacuum Center/2108 Berkeley Way
>
> Dear Ms. Mendez,I am
> writing to share how disappointed I am to hear that there is proposed
> construction that will displace Berkeley Vacuum Center. I have been
> going to Berkeley Vacuum since I bought my first sewing machine while
> attending Berkeley High School in the 1980s and I would be very sad to

- > see them go.
- > Berkeley needs its small businesses to remain a vital, livable city.
- > We all know that small businesses cannot afford to be displaced for
- > the duration of construction and that a business like Berkeley Vacuum
- > cannot afford the costs associated with relocating. Unless developers
- > are required to cover all of the costs of relocation, approving
- > demolition of 2108 Berkeley Way will destroy yet another valuable and
- > needed Berkeley business.
- > Best,Connie
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- > Connie Cagampang
- > Hellerisaturtle@yahoo.com
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Mendez, Leslie

From: Dan Marlin [dandotdan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:48 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: proposed development S.E. Corner of Berkeley Way & Shattuck Ave.

Dear Ms. Mendez,

Below is a letter that expresses my sentiments about the proposed development of property on the southeast corner of Berkeley Way and Shattuck Ave. Please let me know of any public hearing that is scheduled on this issue.

Thanks! Sincerely yours, Daniel Marlin

I am a long-time Berkeley resident, who has resided here since 1962.

I am writing to express my opinion about the proposed development of property at the south east corner of Berkeley Way and Shattuck Ave.

My first reaction, upon seeing the yellow architect's drawing in the window of the Berkeley Vacuum Center was dismay, because it seemed this project would effectively drive out the small businesses, like the Vacuum Center, which are housed in the present structure, and which I have patronized and depended on over the years. They play a positive role in the community. If these businesses are replaced, it will be with other businesses which will have to pay dramatically more rent. Along with the development plans for the nearby property which will displace Ace Hardware, Long Life Vegi Restaurant, Crepe A Gogo and other small businesses, this proposed development would alter the character, accessibility, low-key feel that remains in this part of Berkeley. Those establishments that will be able to afford to move in and replace the present stores when the construction is completed are more likely be concessions for national chains, less community-based, less woven into the fabric of Berkeley life. It would be a major loss if the Berkeley Vacuum Center alone were gone!

Also, the visual impact of your project, along with other nearby projects will intensify the urbanization of Downtown Berkeley. I have seen whole vital neighborhoods, with character, utility and vitality in New York City, San Francisco, Osaka, Japan., and in other cities vanish in the path of development, which may include housing, but housing at a rate that is out of reach

for low, fixed-income and working class people- including many of the "affordable" units which are offered.

Though major financial profits will accrue to the developers of your project, the loss to quality of life for the community will be unmistakable.

For these reasons, I urge a rejection of this plan.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Marlin
1936 California St.
Berkeley, CA 94703
510-849-4192

Mendez, Leslie

From: Helen Cagampang [hcagam@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:35 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Berkeley Vacuum Center

Ms, Mendez,

Berkeley Vacuum Center is more than a store that sells vacuum cleaners. It provides vital services to the community in maintaining those vacuum cleaners, stocking supplies, replacing keys, and repairing and tuning sewing machines. They are friendly, helpful, and skilled, and a vital small business in our community. They help keep our machines running for many years beyond their normal "shelf-life". Thus, they break the chain of our throw away consumer culture, reduce the number of broken machines in the trash stream, and provide convenient access to machines and supplies to help us keep our houses clean. They provide the kind of services that keep good businesses in operation, barring some large disruption like a forced move.

If Berkeley Vacuum Center is forced to relocate temporarily during demolition and construction of a new building, it would be hard for it to survive the dislocation unless the City, the builder, and the land owner provided enough funds to cover moving costs and to sustain their operation during the displacement. Sales, service, repair and supplies would all suffer.

Berkeley should do its best to support and strengthen thriving small businesses, like Berkeley Vacuum Center, else the City will become a ghetto of boutique restaurants, fast food restaurants, Walgreens and CVS chains, shipping and delivery companies, and nothing more. That's not a community we'd like to live in. Each and every small, local business contributes to Berkeley's city fabric, its livability, and the small business climate. Those, in turn, maximize our ability to live as a sustainable community with needed local jobs and services. We cannot afford to lose these skills and services in our community.

I urge the City of Berkeley to support Berkeley Vacuum Center and other small and vital businesses as part of the City's effort to increase the amount of downtown housing. Do not let Berkeley Vacuum Center go the way of the favorite Radston's Office Supply.

Thank you for your consideration.

Helen H Cagampang
1015 Fresno Ave.,
Berkeley, CA

Mendez, Leslie

From: Mary Ford [mymaryway@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:02 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: 2108 Berkeley Way

Dear Ms Mendes,

I am a 38-year resident and 27 year homeowner in Berkeley.

I've been using Berkeley Vacuum Center for most of these years. The company has been a steadfast and reliable resource for our family, with warm greetings and honest dealing. I'm very dismayed to think that we will lose this resource if adequate accommodation is not made to relocate them during the proposed construction. It's just not fair or right!

Please review carefully this plan take into consideration a trusted and worthy contributor to our community.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary Ford
495 Vincente Ave
Berkeley Ca 94707

Please

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Mary Ford
Singing, Nonprofits, Massage!
- *No Whining On The Yacht* -

Mendez, Leslie

From: Carol Yoshimoto [carol_yoshimoto@att.net]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 11:54 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Re: Proposed New Construction at 1955-1975 Shattuck Ave.

This morning I took my Singer sewing machine to **Berkeley Vacuum & Sewing Center** in search of special parts needed for quilting projects. In order to check the compatibility of the parts with my machine, Chris Seegmiller, the owner of the store, demonstrated how to remove the foot on my machine and install two separate presser feet. This was typical of the level of attention and service I have received each time I visit this store.

It would be a loss of epic proportions if the proposed new construction of a mixed use residential and commercial building at 1955-1975 Shattuck Avenue displaced this local gem of a store. Most people who live in the surrounding neighborhood value stores like **Berkeley Vacuum & Sewing Center** which serve the community in ways that only local merchants can. In an increasingly depersonalized marketplace of strip malls and big box stores, the existence of a place like **Berkeley Vacuum & Sewing Center** should be treasured and supported rather than relegated to irrelevance and disappearance.

PLEASE RECONSIDER GOING FORWARD WITH THE PROPOSED NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Best regards,
Carol Yoshimoto

Mendez, Leslie

From: Anna N Pusina [nobu_ko942@berkeley.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 6:50 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Re: Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing Center

Dear Ms. Mendez,

I am writing you in support of keeping the Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing Center (which has been in business for many years) in business. Chris Seegmiller, the proprietor offers a service to the community that only a small business can: friendly, reliable, and personal. His store is well stocked with appliances and parts to appliances that I have had difficulty finding elsewhere. His store is a refreshing change from the often impersonal "big box stores". What is happening in our society that squeezes small business owners like him out of business for the profit of big money developers?

Thank you very much for your consideration in keeping Mr. Seegmiller's Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing Center viable for his and our community's sake.

Sincerely,

Anna Pusina

Berkeley resident for 53 years

Mendez, Leslie

From: Norma Myers [BillNorma@lmi.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 5:15 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Berkeley Vacuum Center

Dear Ms. Mendez

I was so upset to hear that one of our Berkeley small businesses is being threatened. Going in the store is like a bit of Americana. It is one of the reasons I love Berkeley; the small shops with skilled people providing excellent services. It is like a beacon to America of how to get out of this high unemployment and low work ethic. Please do something to make sure that the Berkeley Vacuum Center is not displaced.

Norma Myers

Mendez, Leslie

From: Julie Gillespie [juliekgillespie@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2014 10:34 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: 1955-1975 Shattuck Ave.

Hi Leslie,

I am writing to protest the demolition of 1955-1975 Shattuck Ave.

I rely on Berkeley Vacuum & Sewing Center, Missing Link Bike Cooperative, and Green Citizen for their services.

Please do not take away the business that are so well established in our community. Their years of service and expertise are not to be taken for granted.

Thank You,
Julie Gillespie

Mendez, Leslie

From: Kendra Smith [kendrarupa@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 4:43 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: proposed bldg. on Berkeley Way between Shattuck and Oxford

Dear Leslie Mendez,

I am really upset and distressed on learning that the shops in this block might be replaced by a large commercial and residential bldg. Small, convenient, family owned businesses make Berkeley a fine place to live. The people who have the vacuum cleaner shop are like friends. I know them and trust them. Because of my age, like a lot of Berkeley residents, I can't drive a long way and I don't know where I could go for help with my vacuum and sewing machine if that place wasn't there. I am really upset and hoping against hope the building won't happen there. Parking in downtown Berkeley is already so difficult that I often shop in Albany or El Cerrito. I don't know how I can make a stronger argument against this planned monstrosity. Sincerely, E. Kendra Smith, Ph. D.; 1151 Colusa Ave.; 94707.

Mendez, Leslie

From: rosa lila [wildewoodg@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:21 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Berkeley Vacuum Center

Please save this wonderful family business that has been there for so long and has been such a help with all our home needs !! It would be a tragedy to lose them.
Sincerely, Wendy Wilde

Mendez, Leslie

From: anet overby [aoverby@sonic.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 6:33 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: 1955-1975 shattuck ave.

dear ms. mendez,
3/26/14

one of the reasons we like living in berkeley is due to the lack of big box stores and the fact that there are small businesses we can shop at. These small businesses contribute a lot to our city. please we do not need more high priced apt. building many of them are half filled.

what we need are businesses that keep our tax dollars in our city. we do not want to have to go to another city to find the items we need. please deny the building permit or if that is not possible find a reasonable location w/ reasonable rent for the affected businesses. we shop at all the stores that will be closed. thank you for your attention to this serious problem.

sincerely,
anet overby
richard halstead
simon halstead
1621 julia st.
berkeley, ca. 94703

Mendez, Leslie

From: annie barrows [annie@anniebarrows.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 11:22 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Berkeley Vacuum

Hi Leslie Mendez,

I am writing to express my support for Berkeley Vacuum and my dismay at the prospect of their demise in order to build a condo structure on Shattuck Ave at Berkeley Way. As a 30 year citizen of Berkeley, I am a longtime customer of Berkeley Vacuum, but more importantly, I want Berkeley to continue to be a functioning city rather than an effete bedroom community. There are plenty of condos seeking buyers already; let useful, successful commercial enterprises stay and keep Berkeley vibrant.

Sincerely,
Annie Barrows

Mendez, Leslie

From: Carlota Babilon [cbabilon@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 8:33 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Cc: cbabilon@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Opinion on Proposed New Construction

Dear Ms. Mendez:

We are and have been Berkeley citizens for the past 43 years and would like to voice our opinion about the proposed new construction around 1955-1975 Shattuck Ave.

As people who live in the north Berkeley area, we have come to depend on many of the present small shops around the proposed construction site. The Berkeley Vacuum Center, for example, which has been at their 2108 Berkeley Way location even longer than we have been around, is a unique shop, one of its kind, which has been serving the community with a loyal following.

We are also quite concerned about maintaining the small-scale feel of our city. As taxpayers, we do not want to have a homogeneous environment where small merchants have been eliminated and replaced by monotonous high end residential and commercial buildings. We're already building too many of those boring behemoths which steal away the character of our city. We must make an effort to maintain the diversity of Berkeley. What makes a city vibrant, alive and livable is that diversity of peoples and businesses. We don't want to have to go to other cities to find the small-scale shops; we want for others to come to our city looking for them and leaving behind the revenue we need.

Sincerely,
Carlota Babilon
William Lopez

Mendez, Leslie

From: Sue Goodman [suegood@mcn.org]
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 8:08 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie

Dear Ms.Mendez

I beg you not to force good stores out of Berkeley by extending residential requirements for top stories. We already have so much of that topside residential housing that Berkeley is getting to look all the same and boring. But of course the important thing is that we very much need these stores that serve the public. It is not right to force them to move to distant shopping malls. I lived in Berkeley for 45 years and Berkeley Vacuum always served me well. Now I have moved from Berkeley but still return to get my vacuum fixed. Stores like that draw customers into Berkeley

Sincerely

Sue Goodman

Mendez, Leslie

From: Lisa Kokin [lisa@lisakokin.com]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 9:23 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing

Dear Ms. Mendez,

I am writing to urge you to preserve the existing stores on Berkeley Way and University Avenue. Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing is a Berkeley institution, a true family-owned business that I and my students have used for years. Please, please do not let Berkeley go the way of every other city which evicts small businesses in favor of "development" which makes a few people wealthy at the expense of the unique character of a city.

We do not want to lose Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing or the other small businesses in the area. I urge you to do everything in your power to keep this vital business in the community.

Thank you for your attention to the above, Lisa Kokin

Lisa Kokin
www.lisakokin.com

"To err is human, to forgive, canine."
- Unknown

Mendez, Leslie

From: Timothy Holton [tim@holtonframes.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2014 8:51 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: 1955-1975 Shattuck

Dear Mr Mendez

I am writing to register with your department my heartfelt concern, as a lifelong citizen of Berkeley, about the destruction of the block of downtown Berkeley bound by University Ave., Shattuck, Berkeley Way, and Walnut St., but in particular the building at Shattuck and Berkeley Way which houses several small businesses including Berkeley Vacuum. I have learned of the proposed destruction of that building and its replacement with an 11 story condominium tower. There are several reasons to find this project misguided and even impractical, but not least of all is the destruction it will bring to the businesses residing there now. Berkeley Vacuum is an establishment I have patronized for decades, and which represents a dying breed of small, local family shops dedicated above all to providing a useful service to the community. The evident indifference this project betrays toward such value is appalling. Businesses such as Berkeley Vacuum are the result of decades of devoted work and should be sustained and supported, not destroyed. I know that the entire plan for downtown Berkeley is couched in concern for the city's vitality. In light of such carelessness toward the real vitality of such locally rooted and serviceable businesses, the rhetoric surrounding that push appears to me to be nothing but empty and meaningless marketing.

Furthermore, I would like to know what evidence there is that demand will fill such building's as the one proposed for this site. What is the current vacancy rate of the numerous comparable buildings built in the city over the last decade or so? It appears to me that that rate is high and that there is really very little demand for living in these new soulless, architecturally debased, profit-driven structures that will never be real homes but only housings for people who tend to be like the developers of those buildings, careless of the history, landscape and social fabric of the city of Berkeley.

Finally, I'd like to know how long such buildings will be designed to last. My understanding is that the Downtown Plan, of which this is a part, claims to be based on concern for the planet, that it's a "green" plan. The first criterion for a green building is that it not need to be replaced or need major repair. From what I've seen of the new buildings, durability is not among their virtues.

I look forward to your answers, and implore you to seek productive, not destructive, answers to the problems of the downtown.

—Timothy Holton
Berkeley

Mendez, Leslie

From: Jane Adams [janehadams@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 6:14 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: 1951 - 1975 Shattuck Ave

I am writing about my concern with a proposal being designed for development by the Bay Architects for a very large apartment building with some commercial to replace a group buildings housing a number of small businesses on Berkeley Way and Shattuck Ave. Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing Center is one of the small businesses which will have to move. It appears that Berkeley ACE Hardware is already lost to us in another project.

These plans are putting at risk businesses that are important destinations for citizens of Berkeley and, I should add, for people from out of town coming to Berkeley for other business. Example: I have an SF friend who comes to Berkeley for lessons and sometimes shops in Berkeley at the Vacuum Center or other unique Berkeley stores.

Nearby and usually ample parking is another draw for these businesses currently. I do not want to have to drive to other communities or across Berkeley and create more traffic to obtain these services. I can now walk to this area from my Berkeley home or if I expect a heavy load, I can use the one car in my family to park and efficiently pop in and out of these stores. Sometimes public transportation is not efficient - every try lugging a vacuum cleaner on a bus?

Jane Adams
2701 Virginia Street
Berkeley 94709

Mendez, Leslie

From: Henrik Bull [henrikbarbarabull@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 9:49 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: 1955-1975 Shattuck Ave.

I would hope you will see that the stores currently located at this address will remain there after the proposed building is completed. In particular I'd like to see the Berkeley Vacuum store remain. It is such an important part of the Berkeley community.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Barbara Bull
477 Arlington Ave
94707

Sent from my iPad

Mendez, Leslie

From: ehkim8@gmail.com on behalf of Elaine Kim [ehkim@berkeley.edu]
Sent: Saturday, April 19, 2014 11:09 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Fwd: berkeley way

please don't let the developer build yet another condo building in downtown berkeley, this time on berkeley way!

we love the mom and pop stores there.

i love berkeley vacuum center.

we already have too many condo buildings, and they aren't half-filled.

Mendez, Leslie

From: Kathleen Meadows [kathleenm@frenchamericansf.org]
Sent: Saturday, April 26, 2014 8:38 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing Center on Berkeley Way Moving!

Dear Leslie Mendez,

I'm writing to voice my strong and loud objection to the proposed relocation of the Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing Center on Berkeley Way in Berkeley, CA, along with other surrounding stores--to make room to the new construction site of a mixed use Residential and Commercial Building of 120 feet.

This Vacuum center has been an icon in the neighborhood and a place I feel I can trust and bring my vacuum cleaner model to without reservation. Other vacuum centers do not know how to repair my European model vacuum, and I do not wish to go miles and miles away looking for a store that I am not familiar with to possibly do the repairs.

I am strongly opposed to this proposal to move this store and want to voice my direct opinion to the City of Berkeley Planning Department c/o Leslie Mendez. If there is anything else I can do to show my opposition to this removal and new construction, I would be very happy to do it.

Best,
Kathleen Meadows
(510) 525-3110

Mendez, Leslie

From: David Kessler [kesdavid@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 1:28 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Cc: berkeleyvacuum@yahoo.com
Subject: Keeping small local businesses alive AND local

Ms. Mendez:

We just visited our favorite vacuum cleaner center, Berkeley Vacuum Center at 2108 Berkeley Way. We have bought all our vacuum cleaners there, including a new one this morning. We utterly rely upon them for honest feedback, to let us know when a cleaner can be miraculously and cheaply fixed, and when it's kaput. They are the best! Having stores like this, and others around the corner on Shattuck, that are unique, local and convenient is a very important asset for the community.

I understand that there are plans to replace the current structure in which this business lives with a high rise development. If this is the case, this project, should necessarily principally feature large amounts of new low-cost housing (given the proximity to BART.) *It should also preserve space for the current businesses there, including Berkeley Vacuum, at street level, **providing comparable amounts of space at a rent similar to the current rent.*** If the proposal cannot guarantee these two vital needs of our community, I urge you, as a city planner, and the City to oppose it.

We need housing near BART, and we need strong local businesses to survive. Raising the rent and destroying the fabric of local business is not in the interest of the people of the East Bay. Downtown needs to be cared for just like small neighborhoods such as the Elmwood. Keeping Berkeley special is what matters, not enriching developers or bloating the City's tax base.

I hope that when our current vacuum needs replacing in twenty years that we'll be able to take the short drive down to Berkeley Way and pick up a new model. I hope the City will go to bat to make this possible.

In peace,
David Kessler
Bancroft Library Staff, retired

--

"Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est."

Mendez, Leslie

From: lbrand [h.lorna.brand@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 2:20 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: berkeley vacuum centre

Hello Leslie Mendez,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed relocation of the Berkeley Vacuum Centre. This store and its surrounding stores serve the Berkeley community very well. The central location and the wonderfully willing, patient and knowledgeable staff of the Vacuum Centre help us manage the domestic minutia of our daily lives. Please don't move it and please don't build a tall edifice there.

Lorna Brand.

May 5, 2014

To whom it may concern;
re: development proposal
S.E. Corner of Berkeley Way/
Shattuck Ave.

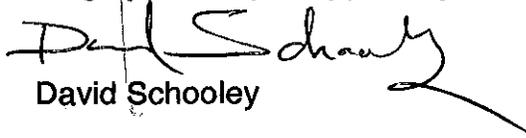
I have lived in Berkeley for over sixty years and like many have watched changes taking place in the urban landscape.

I have recently learned of the proposal to build a 12 story high-end residential building at the South East corner of Berkeley Way/Shattuck Ave.

I object to the out of character high-rise nature of this project, to the exclusive type of units offered without any set asides for low and low-moderate income people who desperately need affordable housing.

I am shocked that the developers plans would sweep away long-term community service businesses like the Berkeley Vaccun Center, Missing Link Bikes and and others. This is a terrible idea. This project will create a more exclusive, less inclusive Berkeley and eliminate businesses which have served the community for decades.

I urge you to reject approving this project.


David Schooley

Mendez, Leslie

From: inaclausen [inaclausen@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2014 4:53 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Berkeley Way block

I was sad to hear the city would consider approving the demolition of the stores on Berkeley Way and Shattuck Avenue today.

These stores is what are so helpful for the community. I certainly can understand getting rid of the houses on Walnut and Berkeley Way and even see that Ace already approved needs to change. I can also see that 2120 Berkeley Way now for sale the former site for UC Press should come down. I would really miss the vacuum store, electronic waste center and the other stores on Shattuck. They supply variety for our community and services that are important. They keep a number of people employed and these stores wouldn't be able to relocate their businesses any other place and we'd lose income of the hood and people would lose jobs. An apartment house wouldn't offer that many jobs or opportunities for commerce in the area. I would rather go to a small store than Home Depot for instance for things that are available in this area.

I worked at 2120 Berkeley Way a few decades. It was never a safe or comfortable building to work in. For one, the windows are low and do not have stops. Someone could fall out of them. Fortunately no one ever did. The person who planned the original building renovation for years ago before we moved into it got a "deal" on the windows and didn't care about safety. There is no real way to complain about such things in the University system.

Anyway, please consider not approving the demolition of our services and stores in the area.

Thank you for listening.

Ina Clausen

Mendez, Leslie

From: Kathryn Freistadt [kfreistadt@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 12:36 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Cc: Capitelli, Laurie
Subject: Berkeley Vacuum Center

I understand there is a proposed development project for the block encompassing Berkeley Way and Shattuck, which will affect numerous businesses in that block. I am a long-time customer of Berkeley Vacuum Center, which is a great local business that serves many needs. I bought some items there the other day and spoke with the owner who said he will close his business if he needs to move because of the development.

Although the buildings in that block are not particularly attractive, there are many locally owned stores that provide great service to Berkeley residents. I've frequented not only Berkeley Vacuum Center, but also Missing Link and other businesses in that block for many years. I don't want to see Berkeley lose these local businesses and am concerned we will if the proposed development proceeds.

The City of Berkeley always talks about "sustainability", "locally-owned", etc. - I would like to see its actions reflect its rhetoric.

Please keep me informed about this.

Thank you.

Kathryn Freistadt
Berkeley, 94707

Mendez, Leslie

From: James Skurray [jhs36@cornell.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 10:56 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: "Revitalizing" downtown

Dear Leslie

Why must we constantly defend ourselves against unnecessary, wanton, and destructive "developments"? I would like to register my strong objection to the proposal to build a multi-level edifice on the site now partly occupied by the Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing Center on the corner of Berkeley Way and Shattuck Avenue.

I would also like to register my strong objection to the proposal to build a high-rise building at the current Bank of America site at Center and Shattuck.

I have read of these proposals as being part of a "plan to revitalize downtown". Why does anyone think downtown needs to be "revitalized"? There is absolutely no lack of vitality there whatsoever. The terms "revitalized" and "development" are euphemistic terms which are used to describe schemes whose main goal is the increase of financial profits for a very few people, most of whom are not even Berkeley residents.

It is HIGH time that we as a society woke up to the misleading and dangerous temptations of "economic growth". Most of our current problems arise directly FROM economic growth. Growth, in and of itself, cannot be seen necessarily as good. One MUST ask, 'growth of what?' Growth of environmental sustainability, yes, we need. Growth of community awareness of the consequences of decisions, yes, we need.

What we particularly DON'T need is continual construction, increased population, dislocation, upheaval, dispossession, loss of history, loss of continuity, and loss of identity. (The university's continual construction program gives us more than enough of those things already!)

I hear there is an influx of money into the West Bay which is leaking into the East Bay. It is up to us to preserve our urban landscapes and identities in the face of these pressures. They are, after all, only temporary and financial in nature. What we are protecting is neither of those.

Best wishes,

James Skurray.

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"Making miracles is hard work. Most people give up before they happen."
Sheryl Crow, 'Maybe that's Something'.

What's on *your* food? - www.whatsonmyfood.org

Mendez, Leslie

From: Karen Ball [kmball@lmi.net]
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2014 1:44 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: berkeley vacuum center

Dear Leslie Mendez,

I heard about the planned development at Shattuck and Berkeley Way, and I worry about the existing businesses that will be closed, especially Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing. This business has been a staple of our community for so many years.

It is THE

place to go to buy a vacuum or to have one repaired. Where else can a person have her vacuum or sewing machine repaired anymore? I hate to just throw items away, when they are repairable.

I'm not against new housing, but can't the existing businesses be grandfathered in to the new building, or maybe the new building could be built around the existing businesses?

Thanks,
Karen Ball
(long time Berkeley resident)

Mendez, Leslie

From: steve weis [saweis1@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 11:44 AM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: mixed use proposal 1955 shattuck

Hi Leslie,

I've been going to Berkeley Vacuum Center for years and concerned that they may be forced out to make way for a new building project.

This business is important to me & would love to see them stay. This is the type of business that serves the people of Berkeley & Oakland. Forcing a business to move presents many challenges to any business.

Hopefully, you can find a way to have them stay.

Thanks

Steve Weis

KAREN STERN, OWNER
RECEIVED

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Leslie Mendez
City of Berkeley
Planning Department
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
510-781-7426

TEXTILE REPAIR STORE LAND USE PLANNING

1625 SHATTUCK AVENUE

SUITE # 312

BERKELEY, CA 94709

510 548-2267

8 JUNE 2014

info@quiltrepair.com

Dear Leslie,

I am writing to oppose the closure and destruction & potential loss of "Berkeley Vacuum and Sewing Center" at 2108 Berkeley Way and the surrounding stores on 1955-1975 Shattuck Ave.

I am a North Berkeley Business owner and for almost 20 years I work closely with North Shattuck Association, it's business owners & residents of Berkeley and The University. I depend on Berkeley Vact Sew for my machines and equipment repairs, supplies for my business scissors sharpening, etc. I have referred dozens and dozens of my clients to their important business. Also Mary Link Bicycle is an anchor of our neighborhood!

The thought of an ugly & unnecessary high rise replacing these important local businesses is very disturbing and unacceptable!

Thank you for your attention to this matter, Very Sincerely,

Karen Stern, owner BFA, USA

Mendez, Leslie

From: Kristine Samuelson [samuelso@stanford.edu]
Sent: Sunday, June 15, 2014 1:59 PM
To: Mendez, Leslie
Subject: Berkeley Vacuum Center

Hello Leslie,

I read about displacement of local businesses for the proposed development at 1955-1975 Shattuck. As a frequent shopper in that area, especially at the Berkeley Vacuum Center, I would like to add my voice in opposition to the project. The shops there provide important local services and could probably only survive a move with a great deal of city support.

Best,

Kristine Samuelson