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Berkeleyside

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<https://t.co/BPqSdJBa1x>

From Thursday, 2 February 2017 - To Wednesday, 8 February 2017

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The Berkeley Wire: 02.07.17

<https://t.co/HQUUOXsgP6>.

The Nosh Wire: 2.7.17 <https://t.co/JYgg3URP57>.

CM [@benny4berkeley](#) makes motion to continue [#BerkeleyHonda](#) hearing bc of alleged noticing issues; + look at transportation study [#berkmtg](#).

CM Maio says so many people, the city has to go forward. [#berkmtg](#).

Update: Berkeley Police say missing person Bret Spencer, 93, has been found and is safe:

<https://t.co/bItI7gK8Gu>

<https://t.co/izYimYJOnU>.

Read all the history about the [#BerkeleyHonda](#) saga here: <https://t.co/eJYIwzugTn>.

Council still trying to decide if noticing issues are significant enough to put off this meeting for a month or two [#berkmtg](#).

City attorney says Berkeley Honda has said it might take legal action if council doesn't move ahead [#berkmtg](#).

City attorney: "I personally think it's always good to take legal risk into consideration when you deliberate" [#berkmtg](#).

Motion to continue fails. Bartlett, Hahn voted yes. Arreguín, Davila abstained. Noes from Wengraf, Worthington, Droste, Maio. [#berkmtg](#).

The city's zoning board approved the project in September, but permits were appealed.

BKGD: <https://t.co/eJwSRo4Jj8> [#berkmtg](#).

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Project appeal relates to alleged detriment of project to surrounding neighborhood; that repair shop is prohibited use [#berkmtg](#).

See the project documents for tonight's special meeting on [#BerkeleyHonda](#)

<https://t.co/yVCYpwlZMO> [#berkmtg](#).

The good news is that there's only 1 item on the agenda. But there are many many speakers here... will definitely be long night

[#berkmtg](#).

[@jpmassar](#) Yes, they are proceeding tonight.

Doesn't mean it won't be appealed and have to go through this all over though.

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Packed house for [#berkeleyhonda](#); trying to decide if mtg will go forward tonight.

Concerns raised abt noticing...

<https://t.co/yfGH6fd2hq>.

(Sorry for delayed post including photos; technical difficulties. Council did vote to proceed tonight.) [#berkmtg](#).

Appellant says there are 50 people downstairs who are waiting to cede time but want to go home. Asking how to handle the logistics.

[#berkmtg](#).

Appellant: I am actually representing 59 neighbors who requested appeal, + dozens more outside 300ft noticing radius who oppose

[#berkmtg](#).

Appellant: Neighbors would like Honda to remain in Berkeley, just not shoehorned into a space Honda itself describes as inadequate
[#berkmtg](#).

Appellant: Any Mountain did not choose to leave; their lease was terminated [#berkmtg](#).

Berkeley Honda rep: Will you uphold 7-2 ZAB decision to allow biz to move 2 blocks south, or will you bow to political pressure?

[#berkmtg](#).

Berkeley Honda rep: We've gone thru 11 public hearings in 30 months. Says council shld consider all of Berkeley, not just neighbors
[#berkmtg](#).

Honda rep: "Please vote tonight. We cannot suffer any more delays." Neighbors titter.

First hissing from opponents just now

#berkmtg.

Honda rep: Longtime citizens "just don't want Berkeley Honda here," haven't thought abt alternatives #berkmtg.

Honda rep describes Berkeley Honda as "small local business," says property is owned by a local family too. Pleads for vote tonight

#berkmtg.

RT @NWSBayArea: Reminder: If you come across a flooded roadway DON'T cross it, Turn Around Don't Drown #CAstorm #CAflood

<https://t.co/wO1DO...>

RT @English_Coaches: 55 people waiting to talk at the Berkeley City Council special session! #NoHonda @CityofBerkeley @berkeleyside <https://...>

Request from Berkeley Mayor @JesseArreguin is asking for everyone to be civil and respect alternative views #berkmtg.

Starting with people who want to cede time to appellants; they are all giving their names and then we'll move on to public comment #berkmtg.

RT @mori_kun: @berkeleyside there's a sea of stranded @SFBART riders at North Berkeley station. Traffic is pretty bad on Sacramento <https://...>

@mori_kun @SFBART How come? /er.

People trying to go north of North Berkeley BART are stuck. <https://t.co/GGrmy5Cy9B>.

RT @SFBART: @jasonjmcguire a person was struck and killed between del Norte and Richmond. Coroner is responding @SFBARTalert for updates.

RT @SFBART: @heyanmarie @KatCameron91 @SFBART @SFBARTalert fatality between del Norte & Richmond. Train service stopped at N. Berkeley.

Parade of people ceding time to appellant....
Mayor: "People can still speak if they want to. They don't have to cede their time"
[#berkmtg](#).

Haven't seen this approach to process before but will be interesting to see how this goes.

Dozens of people ceded time. [#berkmtg](#).

This could be a genius move. [#berkmtg](#).

Just four people ceded time to the applicant, Berkeley Honda. Actual public comment now starting. [#berkmtg](#).

First public speaker: "We canceled our flier distribution," failed to submit materials, bc we were told mtg wld be delayed [#berkmtg](#).

Several members of Berkeley Honda project team (two jackets + orange shirt) [#berkmtg](#)

<https://t.co/msnVAgryfB>.

Speaker keeps calling its document request a FOIA request; must actually be California Public Records Act request, however? [#berkmtg](#).

Speaker says city staff is too close to Berkeley Honda, that residents aren't getting as much access to, consideration from staff [#berkmtg](#).

Attorney for appellants says repair operation WON'T be ancillary and will have greater impact on neighbors; not CEQA exempt [#berkmtg](#).

Appellant attorney: "Putting a car dealership is a change of use," and project conflicts with numerous land use policies [#berkmtg](#).

Appellant attorney: Remand the project to the zoning board and do an environmental review.

[#berkmtg](#).

Appellant attorney: "Numerous legal errors" in ZAB decision. Must hold properly noticed hearing so public can participate [#berkmtg](#).

People are lined up to talk about

[#berkeleyhonda](#) [#berkmtg](#)

<https://t.co/R8mQmaRQc4>.

Neighbor George lives within an arm's length of Berkeley Honda [#berkmtg](#)

<https://t.co/PGZQ3OatOf>.

[@reclaimuc](#) Disagree. A UC spokesman said the FBI was involved. If you know the way the FBI works, this is confirmation. Why the surprise?.

Four speakers (3 are union reps or union members) have urged city to approve Berkeley Honda plans to move. [#berkmtg](#).

One of those speakers said, if the project is continued or delayed any further, "the dealership is going to close" [#berkmtg](#).

We're gonna hear a lot about the word "ancillary" tonight. Good one for the [#berkmtg](#) drinking game??.

Neighborhood advocates fighting Honda include Berkeley muralist Edythe Boone (in yellow)

<https://t.co/7yVNmZelt5>

<https://t.co/5VWY2ZNCDE>.

RT @soundlikepuget: .@berkeleyside @sfbart

we just walked to El Cerrito Plaza. BART's management of this was in words of Yogi Berra "very...."

Neighbor: "There were plans drawn up for the neighborhood that were very specific for the neighborhood": No car dealership. #berkmtg.

@berzerkeley It's the issue with BART being closed. See prior tweets. /er.

Another issue neighbors are raising: Area already too dangerous for pedestrians, and Honda project will increase traffic, risk
[#berkmtg](#).

"It's a completely different consideration" even though it's 2 blocks south, local resident explains. Senior center, kids, etc. [#berkmtg](#).
She continues: "It's a profoundly congested area.... There are times when it's practically gridlocked there" [#berkmtg](#).

Marianne Sluis: "The traffic study grossly underestimates the number of trips it would generate"; asks, why did volume decrease??
[#berkmtg](#).

Neighbors had the city's traffic study reviewed by MRO Engineers, says the traffic study was very flawed. [#berkmtg](#).

Resident says Berkeley Honda workers have been "jerked around by development interests, not by the neighborhood" [#berkmtg](#).

He says it's unfair to paint neighbors as anti-union, anti-worker or even anti-Honda. Says city has plenty of grounds to question [#berkmtg](#).

[@SandraRoyce_](#) We can ask. /er.

Woman: Planning dept has been badgered by developers, that is the problem; planners shld be figuring out some other place for honda [#berkmtg](#).

RT @MattCCrampton: Bravo to @berkeleyside for live tweeting tonight's city council meeting. This is what local journalism should be!

4 workers for Berkeley Honda: "Pls support the previous decision to let us move to a new home" #berkmtg.

RT @tktaylor: Agreed! And @berkeleyside does it for pretty much every Berkeley council meeting. We're suckers for punishment :) <https://t.c...>

RT @eean: Honda employee calling out this neighborhood for objecting to basically everything that's ever happened on that block #berkmtg.

Woman: "Drivers are always in a rush trying to get through that congested area" at Shattuck and Stuart [#berkmtg](#).

Still at least 8 people in line to talk about Berkeley Honda [#berkmtg](#)

<https://t.co/gRpYFUHRPv>.

Multiple ppl have brought up Adeline Corridor process, says this project doesn't fit that vision. BKGD: <https://t.co/hv6d61LUtm>

[#berkmtg](#).

Speaker just brought up "high-volume in-n-out" (business) -- making me think it's definitely dinner time... [#berkmtg](#).

Man: "Too often, money trumps qualified decisions" in Berkeley. Put Berkeley Honda somewhere else, he says. [#berkmtg](#).

"I'm constantly in fear even just walking in my neighborhood," says non-car-owner, re: traffic safety + congestions in neighborhood [#berkmtg](#).

"Much of the delay was caused by Honda itself," says man who questions Honda's complaints abt length of planning process [#berkmtg](#).

"If 80 people is a small group, I'd like to see a big activist group," he continues, in response to Honda characterization [#berkmtg](#).

Speaker: "Let's put Berkeley Honda in West Berkeley, near the freeway, where it belongs"
#berkmtg.

Woman talks about wonderful neighborhood spots, then says, "If we put a car dealership in here, we're killing it dead" #berkmtg.

She continues: "This is our space. This is the center of our community basically. Putting a car dealership here is just failing us"

#berkmtg.

RT @eean: #berkmtg has a yield bank? can we have yield loans?.

@eean It actually is more efficient than the alternative.... /er.

Our most recent story on the Adeline Corridor planning process is here:

<https://t.co/O3w8KM7lsx> #berkmtg.

Neighbors say they are concerned about test driving on residential streets and say they've already seen it happen #berkmtg.

I believe ZAB prohibited test driving on residential streets but there are always questions about how or if enforcement happens #berkmtg.

"I'd really like to see it as a cafe with movies in it," says speaker... Who was going to pay for that again? #berkmtg.

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Berkeley Chamber rep says Berkeley Honda has spent more than \$600,000 in rent alone; 4 traffic studies + 2 noise studies #berkmtg.

Property owner Glen Yasuda says Any Mountain decision to leave came before Berkeley Honda plan to move in. His lett...

<https://t.co/Ew8RvTloEH>.

Attorney for Honda asks "that you not be a handmaiden to the delay tactics. This council owes Berkeley Honda a vote tonight" #berkmtg.

Attorney says notice was adequate, primary vs. ancillary already decided, CEQA already determined, location already OK'd in overlay #berkmtg.

President of LeConte neighborhood association says 80+ of its members voted against project 1 yr ago: "Deny this project tonight."

[#berkmtg](#).

Man says tonight is council's time to prove it's different from the old council and not just "another group of the same old cloth"

[#berkmtg](#).

He continues: "It's up to you to decide, and we will see you at the next election."

[#berkmtg](#).

[@SandraRoyce_](#) Apparently there was some kind of car wreck involving several vehicles but no injuries, says BPD.

Woman: "We already have parking mayhem in our neighborhood." Says the left-turn from southbound Shattuck will cause problems.

#berkmtg.

Council listens to apparent last speaker at Berkeley Honda public hearing #berkmtg
<https://t.co/bs2ZA4Y2SH>.

@mrlipner People here say some city planning docs support that. But not sure how West Berkeley neighbors would feel...

Council questions starting now, then discussion. Then action? #berkmtg.

Maio: "I think the thing that concerns most people is the service." #berkmtg.

Maio said there are no available sites near the freeway: "It's not alternative facts, it's what's the case." #Berkmtg.

RT @berkeleycachamb: @JesseArreguin should be commended for a civil even friendly #berkmtg. I didn't get hissed at! #respect #agreetodi....

One of the issues coming up tonight is different interpretations of different parts of the code, which seem to be in conflict #berkmtg.

Staff is interpreting code one way, neighbors say other interpretations are more accurate. #berkmtg.

Mayor pushes back re: def of ancillary use.

Staff says: We compared ratio to other dealerships and it was comparable [#berkmtg](#).

Staff says average ratio of handful of other auto biz was 37% sales to 63% service.

Berkeley Honda proposal is 35% to 65%.

[#berkmtg](#).

RT [@511SF Bay](#): Update: BART - El Cerrito Del Norte and Richmond Stations Reopened. Normal Service Restored. <https://t.co/ITRwoLJWsR>.

There are only 8 council ppl right now, pending upcoming election for downtown. So a tie is possible. [#berkmtg](#)

<https://t.co/wFGfMpZMRz>.

CM [@k__worthington](#), wanted it "in the record clear for 12 years ppl looked at 100 locations + couldn't find one in west berkeley"

[#berkmtg](#).

Sounds like Droste, Worthington, Maio, Wengraf likely to vote against appeal. The rest may vote in favor. Not sure what tie means [#berkmtg](#).

RT [@g__mags](#): [@berkeleyaside](#) [@k__worthington](#) even cited [@MayorTomBates](#)' failed efforts to move dealerships closer to freeway.

If the tie means the appeal essentially fails... then the next step could be a lawsuit? But this is all hypothesis... [#berkmtg](#).

Staff indicates that pretty much every question coming up was asked and answered by ZAB. #berkmtg.

RT @eswillwalker: Oakland fire chief goes on leave two months after deadly Ghost Ship warehouse fire <https://t.co/tCm71onyjF>.

RT @eean: @berkeleyside and yea a tie means 'no' I think, so they can't reverse the decision with a tie (assuming it was approved by ZAB?).

RT @eean: @berkeleyside have the neighbors raised money to do a CEQA lawsuit? seems likely to me that this will be decided tonight.

@eean You're not keeping up with our coverage??? Hah. <https://t.co/eJwSRomkHI>.

CM Hahn says she has "some fairly lengthy comments," hopes they are under 10 minutes.

Raised eyebrows on the dais. #berkmtg.

Hahn is basically saying, Berkeley Honda shouldn't have left its existing location and it shld have known the risks. #berkmtg.

RT @eean: oooh snap @berkeleyside is cited by Hahn #berkmtg.

Hahn: "Leaving known + secure site, putting jobs, good people and a dealership at risk was done w/eyes wide open." #berkmtg.

14 minutes into Hahn's comments. Mayor tries to wrap her up and she insists on continuing. In summary: She has lots of concerns.

[#berkmtg](#).

Hahn trashes traffic studies + staff: In all my years on ZAB, I never saw a traffic report worth the paper it was printed on [#berkmtg](#).

Hahn says she doesn't buy the traffic, parking, impact analyses and can't make the non-detriment finding. [#berkmtg](#).

Berkeley Honda rep: "We're not claiming to do more. The biz activity is the same." Says it won't be an increased impact. [#berkmtg](#).

Motion to extend to 11:15 unanimously approved. [#berkmtg](#).

Berkeley Honda rep: "They haven't gambled. They've really been actively looking to find a new home." #berkmtg.

Mayor points out that developer/rep for Berkeley Honda is same person who represented project that told BH it had to leave old spot #berkmtg.

"There's interpretation, not discretion," says staff in response to question about inconsistency in various plans and policies #berkmtg.

CM @k__worthington: Planning Comm.

"explicitly decided that the ancillary uses could be a majority" bc repair is usually greater #berkmtg.

"We can't redefine things," says CM [@k__worthington](#). Says council must respect the history and process. "The record is explicit." [#berkmtg](#).

Mayor [@JesseArreguin](#) says, bc of code, "this application, this project will result in different or greater impacts" bc of service [#berkmtg](#).

Meeting is extended to 11:20 p.m. [#berkmtg](#).

CM [@benny4berkeley](#): "I'm gonna vote against this because I feel it's gonna result in people being injured... our weakest among us" [#berkmtg](#).

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@berkeleycachamb @eean @ericpanzer Sounds like he just said... if there's not 5-3 then it would come back Feb. 28??.

Hahn's motion to uphold appeal and overturn ZAB decision fails with 4 yeases and 4 abstentions. #berkmtg.

Basically: This item comes back Feb. 28 and if there's again no 5-3 vote, the ZAB vote is upheld. #berkmtg adjourned.

Where in Berkeley? <https://t.co/gl5hyF04Ax>.

BERKELEY PD: AVOID Sacramento St from Rose to Hopkins due to traffic accident

<https://t.co/CDPhgPRnWS>.