

City of Calabasas Planning Department

100 Civic Center Way

Calabasas, CA 91302

Dear Mr. Klein,

I am writing to support The Commons Lane plan. The Commons is a community destination in Calabasas, and I go there very often. This beautiful gathering place achieves the high standards that Calabasas upholds. We enjoy attending the special events that the Commons offer our City.

We look at the Commons as a enjoyable and focal community for the **our** City.

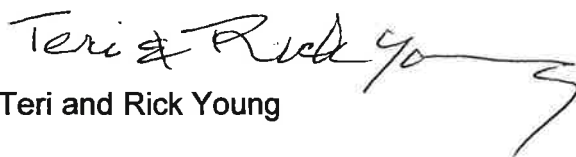
I believe that adding even more variety to the shops and restaurants there will be wonderful, and will appeal to everyone.

Many seniors in Calabasas that we know are considering downsizing to smaller homes, and **living in The Commons new apartments** would be wonderful. It would be great to enjoy The Commons' many shops and restaurants without having to get into our cars. I am very glad that Caruso is providing this high-quality housing option at The Commons.

Teri and I also think about what that expansion of The Commons would do for the City, such increase revenue from sales tax and property taxes. It will also raise the value of the homes in our community and bring in more revenue to the City from the sale of our homes to the City.

I hope the city joins us supporting this project.

Best Regards,


Teri and Rick Young

23106 Park Contessa

Calabasas

818-984-7425

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

JUL 03 2023

From: Moran Nachum <morannachum@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:26 AM
To: info <info@cityofcalabasas.com>
Subject: Comment Regarding Planning Commission Meeting on July 6, 2023

My name is Moran Nachum and I am a resident of Calabasas.

I am disappointed by the commission's vote against the Caruso story pole proposal during the commission meeting on July 6, 2023.

What should have been a procedural vote ended up in over an hour of wasted time. I do not understand what the dissenting commissioners' aim is in declining Caruso's proposal. In rejecting the proposal, the commissioners would, in the same sentence, herald the Commons as a hub for our city and then go on to decree that the proposed story poles did not express building massing clearly enough or that the community would not engage with the AR technology enough.

This is ridiculous.

The Caruso team has already listened to the commission's concerns in June and adapted their story pole proposal to reflect the commission's feedback. As someone mentioned during the meeting, the story pole vote does not actually impact the Commons expansion proposal in terms of its actual content: how parking will be moved, which buildings will be changed, etc.

What a dissenting vote *does* do, however, is communicate to developers that Calabasas is not a town receptive to them. The Caruso team did everything right: they met with the commission early, they got their feedback, they made adjustments to their plans based on that feedback, and then they sat through another long meeting in which those same commissioners essentially walked back their comments from the prior meeting.

Why would they want to do that again? Why would any developer want to do that?

The commission is right to acknowledge that the Commons is the hub of Calabasas, but it's also an aging mall format that is losing its shine with each year. The Caruso team is trying to help our city by bringing our shopping center into the 21st century, but is instead met with resistance, blocking, and interference at the most banal and procedural steps of the process.

If I was Caruso, I would sell the property to any willing seller and let them deal with this aging property in a town that seems loath to advancement.

Thank you,
Moran

From: Chamil Hettiarachchi <chamilnh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:13:37 AM
To: Michael Klein <mklein@cityofcalabasas.com>
Cc: Sparky Cohen <scohen@cityofcalabasas.com>
Subject: Re: Automatic reply: Story Pole Discussion - Calabasas Commons

To Calabasas city officials—

I am very disappointed by the Planning Commission's recent vote concerning the story pole concept for the new project being proposed at The Commons at Calabasas.

My family and I live in Calabasas and we visit the Commons frequently. It is more than clear that the traditional story pole process is simply not feasible: it would be a huge construction project just to install the poles and the weights, guide wires, and other infrastructure that would be needed. This would eliminate many parking places, it would be a visual blight, and it would make the experience of visiting the Commons materially worse for many families.

Caruso has proposed a very reasonable alternative that avoids these drawbacks, but still communicates the salient details about their plan using 21st-century technology. Why is this not enough? And why do we want to make it so difficult for Caruso to invest in their 25 year old property? I think this was a poor decision and I hope it will be reconsidered.

Sincerely,

Chamil Hettiarachchi
Calabasas Resident