

Janet Calderon

From: Rosy Straka
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 9:31 AM
To: Janet Calderon
Cc: Jeff Wan; Jim Diaz; Kim Trupiano; Peter Cloven; Letecia "Holly" Tillman
Subject: Comments for 1/17/23 City Council Meeting Regarding Housing Elements discussion at 1/10/23 Meeting

Comments re: Housing Elements discussion at the City Council Meeting January 10, 2023

Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Council Members,

I was livid at the City Council meeting last week when the Mayor wanted to remove the word 'segregation' from the Housing Element documents. The document included this, "...community and City Council opposition, geographic constraints, zoning limitations and community priorities have all contributed to the current patterns of segregation seen in the City today." Mayor Wan was opposed to the statement and did not agree that the items mentioned caused patterns of segregation.

I have lived in Clayton for 24 years and in the Bay Area my entire, 64 year old life (SF, Berkeley, Oakland). I've worked for IBM and Pacific Telephone, both of which had 'territories' in the Bay Area. This made me very familiar with all the cities and many neighborhoods and their reputations. It has always been known that Clayton was that 'lily white, pokey little cow town in the boonies'. And they wanted to keep it that way.

We chose to live in Clayton because of the schools and it was vastly more affordable than other places in the Bay Area with good schools. Unfortunately, I have seen first hand how Clayton targets People Of Color. In fact, while my children were at Mt. Diablo Elementary, Linda Hutcherson, a black woman, became principal. Upon first seeing her, I was next to a parent who exclaimed, "THAT'S who they got to be principal?!"

I have personally been targeted as have my children. The police came to my door when my brown daughter and her black friend visited me. A neighbor called police, having seen 'suspicious' people in the neighborhood (Peacock Creek). THEY CAME TO MY DOOR TO ASK IF I KNEW MY DAUGHTER!

My brown son, who very has very long black hair in a ponytail, has been stopped by the police, once at our mailbox while picking up our mail. They made him go inside and get his ID. Another time, he was stopped while walking his bike on the sidewalk on Clayton Road. They asked why he was walking his bike. He explained that he was following the law and not riding at night with no light. Sgt. Shaw reached out to me about this and I appreciated that, but it still happened.

I dread when he goes out for his daily walk. I imagine he'll be accosted by certain neighbors or have the police called on him. I wonder how many of your kids have been stopped for things like this or fear when they go out in your own neighborhood? He's lived in Clayton his entire life. They should know him and they should know that he's my son. I was a tireless, non-stop volunteer while they were in school.

And so much for moving here for the schools. This same child was bullied so badly at Mt. Diablo and Diablo View that he ended up doing independent study and finished up high school at Olympic. He was amazed at the respect he received from the kids at Olympic, something he never got at the Clayton schools. The teachers there couldn't understand why this intelligent, well spoken and polite young man was at Olympic. He never shared the reasons.

I really love the life and the life long friendships we've made in Clayton. I just wish I hadn't seen first hand how cruel it can be. Just because it hasn't happened to you, doesn't mean it doesn't happen. The history is the history and there was definitely 'segregation'. Why hide it? What now? Erase CRT, BLM? Pretend slavery didn't happen? Some people really need to get their heads out of the sand and SEE what is actually happening.

Respectfully,

