

Planning Commission
Late Correspondence
Received before 12 noon
Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Correspondence

From: Norma Guzman <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 6:23 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Planning Commissioners,

Dear Planning Commissioners,

We are writing to strongly support the City Council's direction to set seven-story base zoning for North Shattuck, College, and Solano Avenues. We commend Council for taking a real stand on housing and urge you to fully implement this vision. We support at least seven stories' base zoning and ask you not to water down the proposal with setbacks, stepdowns, and other requirements that would reduce the number of homes that could get built on any parcel. Many of these parcels are oddly shaped or present other obstacles to development, so they need whatever flexibility we can provide.

Seven-story zoning could contribute meaningful amounts of housing to address affordability and create mixed-income neighborhoods where teachers, service workers, young families, and long-time residents can live. Seven stories is transit-appropriate for corridors with AC Transit service and is standard in successful transit-oriented neighborhoods throughout the Bay Area.

Seven-story base zoning will also support local businesses with more foot traffic, reduce car dependency to support our climate commitments, and open Berkeley's opportunity-rich neighborhoods to everyone. We have a legal and a moral duty to affirmatively further fair housing.

We urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,

[Your name]

[Optional: Your council district]

Norma Guzman

normaguz@gmail.com

1080 JONES ST APT 106

Berkeley, California 94710

Correspondence

From: Justin Truong <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 11:37 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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We urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,

[Your name]

[Optional: Your council district]

Justin Truong

justintruong56@gmail.com

33 Junior Terrace

San Francisco , California 94112

From: [RAUL MALDONADO](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors
Date: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:03:07 PM

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Cheers,
Raul Maldonado

RAUL MALDONADO
rmaldonadocloud@gmail.com
1419 11th St
Oakland, California 94607

Correspondence

From: Andrea Horbinski <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 3:47 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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I urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,
Andrea Horbinski

Andrea Horbinski
andrea.horbinski@gmail.com
250 Amherst Ave
Berkeley, California 94708

Correspondence

From: Isaac Serratos <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 12:25 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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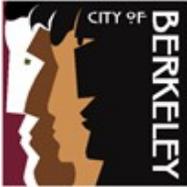
Respectfully,
Isaac Serratos

Isaac Serratos
isaacserratos2@gmail.com
37 8th Ave, Unit 204
Oakland, California 94606

Correspondence

From: Mingham, Faye
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 11:26 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Fw: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
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Faye (Messner) Mingham Assistant Planner (she/her/hers)

Planning and Development, Land Use Division

1947 Center St., 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

Phone: (510) 981.7484

Email: fmessner@berkeleyca.gov

In Office Days: Monday-Wednesday, Remote Days: Thursday-Friday

From: James Mahady <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:17 AM
To: Planning Commission <PlanningPC@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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We urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Mahady

District 1 Resident

James Mahady

jamahady@gmail.com

1621 Curtis St

Berkeley, California 94702

Correspondence

From: Eric Johnson <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 11:00 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Allow more housing along Berkeley's commercial corridors

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
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Planning Commissioners,

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am a North Berkeley resident, father and home owner. I am writing to strongly support the City Council's direction to set seven-story base zoning for North Shattuck, College, and Solano Avenues. I support at least seven stories' base zoning and ask you not to water down the proposal with setbacks, stepdowns, and other requirements that would reduce the number of homes that could get built on any parcel.

Seven-story zoning would enable meaningful amounts of housing to address affordability and create mixed-income neighborhoods. Seven stories is transit-appropriate for corridors with AC Transit service and is standard in successful transit-oriented neighborhoods throughout the Bay Area.

Seven-story base zoning will also support local businesses with more foot traffic, and open Berkeley's opportunity-rich neighborhoods to everyone.

Thank you,
Eric Johnson
District 5

Eric Johnson
johnsoew@gmail.com
1432 Grant Street
Berkeley, California 94703

Correspondence

From: Ramakrishnan, Uttara
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 10:06 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: FW: The Solano Ave bulldozing

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
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Uttara Ramakrishnan (she/her)
Associate Planner | Urban Designer

-----Original Message-----

From: Planning Dept. Mailbox <Planning@berkeleyca.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:41 AM
To: Ramakrishnan, Uttara <URamakrishnan@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: FW: The Solano Ave bulldozing

Public Comment on Corridors.

Jim Bondi, Associate Management Analyst City of Berkeley, Department of Planning & Development
1947 Center St., 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-7428
JBondi@berkeleyca.gov
<https://berkeleyca.gov/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbara Thompson <barbarathomps31@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 11:23 AM
To: Planning Dept. Mailbox <Planning@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: The Solano Ave bulldozing

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I would like to let you know what a precious shopping/dining area this is.

Sue Johnston Custom Lamps is an example of fine craftsmanship.
It is not replicated elsewhere in the area that I know of .

Disrupting the businesses that aren't being torn down will also create a loss for them and for the City.

Surely there is an area that would do less hard to destroy/rebuild.

Barbara Thompson
9 The Uplands, Berkeley

Correspondence

From: Mari Casabonne <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:47 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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We urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,
Marie Casabonne
Berkeley resident

Mari Casabonne
mccasabonne@gmail.com
1621 Curtis st
Berkeley, California 94702

Correspondence

From: Tia Triplett <tia@anlf.com>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:03 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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Respectfully,

[Your name]

[Optional: Your council district]

Tia Triplett

tia@anlf.com

2821 1/2 South Sycamore Avenue

Los Angeles, California 90016

Correspondence

From: Lee Bishop <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:07 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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We urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,
Lee Bishop
District 1

Lee Bishop
bishoplm@gmail.com
1422 NORTHSIDE AVE
BERKELEY, California 94702

Correspondence

From: Nathan Francis <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 9:04 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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Planning Commissioners,

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly support the City Council's direction to set seven-story base zoning for North Shattuck, College, and Solano Avenues. Don't settle for anything less!

I commend Council for taking a real stand on housing and urge you to fully implement this vision. We support at least seven stories' base zoning and ask you not to water down the proposal with setbacks, stepdowns, and other requirements that would reduce the number of homes that could get built on any parcel. Many of these parcels are oddly shaped or present other obstacles to development, so they need whatever flexibility we can provide.

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I urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,

Nathan Francis

District 8 Resident

Nathan Francis

nathan.francis@gmail.com

6029 Chabolyn Ter

Berkeley, California 94618

Correspondence

From: susan dembitz <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:52 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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Planning Commissioners,

Dear Planning Commissioners,

As a longtime Berkeley resident, I am writing to strongly support the City Council's direction to set seven-story base zoning for North Shattuck, College, and Solano Avenues. We commend Council for taking a real stand on housing and urge you to fully implement this vision. We support at least seven stories' base zoning and ask you not to water down the proposal with setbacks, stepdowns, and other requirements that would reduce the number of homes that could get built on any parcel. Many of these parcels are oddly shaped or present other obstacles to development, so they need whatever flexibility we can provide.

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We urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,

[Your name]

[Optional: Your council district]

susan dembitz

sdembitz@gmail.com

2225A Woolsey St

Berkeley, California 94705

Correspondence

From: Paul Koehler <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:41 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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Respectfully,

[Your name]

[Optional: Your council district]

Paul Koehler

paulkoehler1000@gmail.com

3309 Kempton Ave

Oakland, California 94611-5825

Correspondence

From: Owen Thompson-Lastad <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:35 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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Respectfully,

[Your name]

[Optional: Your council district]

Owen Thompson-Lastad
chicagoowen@gmail.com
1629 Julia St.
Berkeley, California 94703

Correspondence

From: Ranjit Bharvirkar <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:17 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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Respectfully,
Ranjit Bharvirkar
Council district: 6

Ranjit Bharvirkar
ranjit.bharvirkar@gmail.com
1836 Arch Street
Berkeley, California 94709

Correspondence

From: Anne Torney <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:12 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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Respectfully,
Anne Torney
District 7

Anne Torney
annemtorney@gmail.com
1932 Thousand Oaks Blvd
Berkeley, California 94707

Correspondence

From: Ben Gerhardstein <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:11 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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Respectfully,
Ben Gerhardstein

Ben Gerhardstein
ben.gerhardstein@gmail.com
2320 acton St
Berkeley, California 94702

Correspondence

From: elaine magree <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:09 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Planning Commissioners,

Dear Planning Commissioners,

We are writing to strongly support the City Council's direction to set seven-story base zoning for North Shattuck, College, and Solano Avenues. We commend Council for taking a real stand on housing and urge you to fully implement this vision. We support at least seven stories' base zoning and ask you not to water down the proposal with setbacks, stepdowns, and other requirements that would reduce the number of homes that could get built on any parcel. Many of these parcels are oddly shaped or present other obstacles to development, so they need whatever flexibility we can provide.

Seven-story zoning could contribute meaningful amounts of housing to address affordability and create mixed-income neighborhoods where teachers, service workers, young families, and long-time residents can live. Seven stories is transit-appropriate for corridors with AC Transit service and is standard in successful transit-oriented neighborhoods throughout the Bay Area.

Seven-story base zoning will also support local businesses with more foot traffic, reduce car dependency to support our climate commitments, and open Berkeley's opportunity-rich neighborhoods to everyone. We have a legal and a moral duty to affirmatively further fair housing.

We urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,

[Your name]

[Optional: Your council district]

elaine magree

elaine.magree@gmail.com

1927 FAIRVIEWST

Berkeley, California 94703

Correspondence

From: Tawny Reynolds <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:06 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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We urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,
Tawny Reynolds
Berkeley 94702, District 1

Tawny Reynolds
tawnyann@gmail.com
1421 Hearst Ave
Berkeley , California 94702

Correspondence

From: cafred1@juno.com
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 12:24 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Letter For Feb 4, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting Packet

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2-2-2026

Please include this letter in the Packet for the February 4, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting.

Please confirm receipt.

thank you,
Clifford Fred

Feb 2, 2026

Clifford Fred

Berkeley Planning Commission

MY OPPOSITION TO THE CORRIDORS COMMERCIAL UP-ZONING

NO FURTHER ACTION SHOULD OCCUR PENDING REVIEW OF MEASURE 'V' - THE 1982 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Hello Berkeley Planning Commission Members,

Please note my opposition to the planned Up Zoning of San Pablo Ave, the Elmwood, North Shattuck, and Solano Ave.

Berkeley is already the most densely populated city in California. There are over 10,000 approved or pending housing units in Berkeley. Yet the demand is not there. Massive housing projects keep getting approved, beautiful and human scale buildings keep getting bulldozed, and then the lots remain vacant for years.

The very far reaching residential up-zoning of July 2025 will also add many thousands of new dwelling units to Berkeley, causing permanent gridlock to our streets, and over crowding of our parks.

As the Fire Department's new Evacuation and Response Time Study shows, more development equals more traffic gridlock, which means longer response times to accidents and medical emergencies, which results in more unnecessary deaths.

The once vibrant block of Center between Shattuck and Oxford was emptied out by the would be developer of a 26 story apt building, and for over a year, we see the blight of empty store fronts.

This is all madness. The developer money and radical ideology driving this utter destruction of the character and livability of Berkeley is total madness.

Leave our commercial zoning as it is.

NO ACTION SHOULD OCCUR BEFORE CAREFUL REVIEW OF MEASURE 'V' - THE 1982 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL PRESERVATION ORDINANCE:

In Nov 1982, Berkeley voters passed Measure 'V', the Neighborhood Commercial Preservation Ordinance. Measure 'V' was never repealed and is still in effect.

Measure 'V' was placed on the ballot to protect our neighborhood commercial shopping districts from over-development. The City is ignoring Measure 'V' in its rush to up-zone the Elmwood, North Shattuck, Solano Ave, and San Pablo Avenue. No further action on any of these up-zoning proposals should occur until there is a careful review of the implications of and the City's responsibilities under Measure 'V'.

thank you,
Clifford Fred

Correspondence

From: Oban Lopez-Bassols <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 10:15 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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Seven-story base zoning will also support local businesses with more foot traffic, reduce car dependency to support our climate commitments, and open Berkeley's opportunity-rich neighborhoods to everyone. We have a legal and a moral duty to affirmatively further fair housing.

We urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,

Oban

District 7

Oban Lopez-Bassols

obanlopezb@gmail.com

25 Hazel Road

Berkeley, California 94705