



City of Sierra Madre

Office of the City Clerk

232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.,

Sierra Madre, CA

(626) 355-7135

THE BROWN ACT PROVIDES THE PUBLIC WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS AT ANY PUBLIC MEETING.

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING AND WILL BE POSTED ONTO THE CITY'S WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND TRANSPARENCY.

THE COMMENTS ATTACHED ARE SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. THE CITY DOES NOT CONFIRM THE VERACITY OF THE STATEMENTS PROVIDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

From: Brian Decker [REDACTED]
Subject: Continued Discussion of Uses Permissible for Property Located in the One-Family (R-1) Zone: Home Occupations
Date: March 26, 2024 at 15:00
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I do not support any amendments and/or exemptions to existing City ordinances that will encourage and/or support an increase in business activity in the R-1 (Residential) Zone. Residential zoning should protect the residents of Sierra Madre, not businesses.

Regards,
Brian Decker
Property owner: [REDACTED]

From: Maria Decker [REDACTED]
Subject: CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE ONE-FAMILY (R-1) ZONE:
HOME OCCUPATIONS
Date: March 26, 2024 at 14:57
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

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**CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY
LOCATED IN THE ONE-FAMILY (R-1) ZONE: HOME OCCUPATIONS**

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council

I do not support any amendments and/or exemptions to existing City ordinances that will encourage and/or support an increase in business activities in the R1 (Residential) Zone. Residential zoning should protect the residents of Sierra Madre, not businesses.

Best regards,
Maria Decker
Property Owner: [REDACTED]

From: Paul F. Dodwell [REDACTED]
Subject: CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE ONE-FAMILY (R-1) ZONE:
HOME OCCUPATIONS
Date: March 26, 2024 at 14:23
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

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City of Sierra Madre
City Council Public Comment / March 26, 2024

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem and Members of the City Council:

I urge you to reject any request for amendments and/or exemptions to existing City ordinances that will encourage and/or support an increase in business activities in the R1 (Residential) Zone, where such business activity is performed outside the four walls of the home and can have a negative impact on the surrounding neighbors, such as increasing traffic, consuming available street parking, causing loud noise, or utilizing disruptive lighting among other negative effects. Residential zoning should protect the residents of Sierra Madre, not such businesses.

Respectfully,

Paul Dodwell

[REDACTED]
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

From: Steven Rostker [REDACTED]
Subject: 3-26-24 city council/tup
Date: March 26, 2024 at 14:00
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

TUP FEES

City Council & Mayor...

At the 3-21-24 planning commission meeting, the commission seemed to lean towards eliminating the 25 and less exception to ordinance 1458 to close the "Loophole". I spoke out in favor of that. I also spoke out in favor of waiving the mailing notification fee for tups, but insisted that the mailings must be retained for transparency to the public. Commission is also reviewing how to separate tup details between zones R1 & V & Institutional... I agree that some tup fees can and should be waived in select few cases as proposed in the draft for discussion tonite by council. But, any tup applications in a R1 zone should & need to be examined very closely before fees are waived and before sign off by planning and/or by the city manager.

TUP ENFORCEMENT

I provided to the commission documentation (TUP 23-09 dated 8-14-23 application) that in which Kim Brandstater herself, calls lavender wedding events "our business since 2017" . Further, her public comments provided before planning commission meeting 3-21-24, stated that they have done multiple events since #1458 was modified in October 2022 where some were paid and some she claims were not. BUSINESS = COMMERCIAL BY ANY DEFINITION . That, i believe, is the clarity that planning/code enforcement/police need in order to enforce the city codes and not allow Lavender to continue running a business at their properties in R1 on Olive & Mira Monte.

HOME OCCUPANCY

In the 20 some years since this h/o code was initiated, there has never been a issue like the issue that has been created by the Brandstater & their Lavender Marketplace. We and many other residents see no reason to modify this ordinance with potential "loopholes" that lavender can use to exploit for their personal gain. The "loophole" that i warned council and the city attorney about back in June 2022, but was not prevented from happening, should NOT be repeated. "Wedding & Event" Productions is a business that CAN NOT BE ALLOWED IN ANY R1 ZONE AT ANY TIME.

Rather than modify, City Should Enforce (or as city attorney coined "administrate") what they have on the books.

ADAPTIVE RE USE OF HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

This ordinance states that ONLY by a cup issuance, could properties like the Brandstater hold a commercial / like fund raising event . Council member and then Mayor Goss urged Justin Brandstater to go down the CUP route back in June/July of 2022 , if they wished to keep going. And Justin read a statement to council later saying they had initiated a process to do so. THEY HAVE STILL NOT DONE SO. The Brandstater at that time were begging for forgiveness from the city for the errors of their ways (rather than having asked for permission prior). That is their some defense & strategy they are using now. Claiming they have changed their ways again and asking to be forgiven. And for another chance to show they can be trusted in going forth with their Business Lavender Market Place. They can NOT be trusted.

Thank You,

From: Joe Armstrong [REDACTED]
Subject: City Council Public Comment / March 26, 2024
Date: March 26, 2024 at 13:31
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

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CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE ONE-FAMILY (R-1) ZONE: HOME OCCUPATIONS

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council

I live on Olive Ave. I do not support any amendments and/or exemptions to existing City ordinances that will encourage and/or support an increase in business activities in the R1 (Residential) Zone. Residential zoning should protect the residents of Sierra Madre, not businesses.

With regards to Lavender Marketplace thier events primarily bring in traffic during weekends which normally would not exist. I usually park a vehicle on the street in front of my house during the day due to the single file nature of my driveway and have had to compete with the Lavender marketplace events. There have been instances that I have seen people parked on the street well before it was apparent that an event was going to take place. In these days of "see something say something" it was only by asking if they needed something that I would have known why they were on the block.

I also do not believe comparing the use to the villa at Avenerno is appropriate as use of a historical building. At Alverno the events take place in the Villa, however Lavender Marketplace is a structure built within the last several years. While it may be elegant and designed to look older, it is not historic. Alverno's also has off street parking. Another item is that a home business isn't to employ people outside of the home. While that may be true of the homeowners, there are wedding planners, caterers, photographers, event staff and others that are making money using this location.

And primarily I support the neighbors that live next door to this location which are the most impacted by this business.

Best regards,
Joe Armstong
[REDACTED]

From: Stefani Greenwood [REDACTED]
Subject:
Date: March 26, 2024 at 13:15
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

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City Council Public Comment / March 26, 2024

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY
LOCATED IN THE ONE-FAMILY (R-1) ZONE: HOME OCCUPATIONS**

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council

I do not support any amendments and/or exemptions to existing City ordinances that will encourage and/or support an increase in business activities in the R1 (Residential) Zone. Residential zoning should protect the residents of Sierra Madre, not businesses.

Best regards,
Serge Monkewitz and Stefani Greenwood
[REDACTED]

From: Judy Lee Skiff, Real Estate Broker [REDACTED]
Subject: Continued uses permissible for R-1 zone one family home
Date: March 26, 2024 at 12:11
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council

I DO NOT SUPPORT OR AGREE WITH ANY AMENDMENTS AND/OR EXEMPTIONS TO EXISTING CITY ORDINANCES THAT WILL ENCOURAGE AND/OR SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN THE R-1 (RESIDENTIAL) ZONE. RESIDENTIAL ZONING SHOULD PROTECT THE RESIDENTS OF SIERRA MADRE, NOT THE BUSINESSES.

BEST REGARDS, JUDY AND ALLEN SKIFF [REDACTED]
SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024

Judy Lee Skiff
Real Estate Broker DRE#00893777
[REDACTED] cell
[REDACTED]

TOP PRODUCER FOR OVER 30 YEARS

From: Joshua Wolf jwolf@sierramadreca.gov [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Lavender Market
Date: March 26, 2024 at 11:29
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

Please enter the email below as a public comment on discussion item 3 for City Council's March 26, 2024 meeting.

Joshua Wolf
Senior Planner
Planning & Community Preservation
City of Sierra Madre
(626) 355-7138 ext. 403
Email: jwolf@cityofsierramadre.com

From: notification@civiclive.com [mailto:notification@civiclive.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 9:50 AM
To: Joshua Wolf <jwolf@sierramadreca.gov>
Subject: Lavender Market

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The following email message was generated by a user filling in a contact form on your website. It was sent from the following IP address: [REDACTED]

We are the direct neighbors at [REDACTED] Olive. We are strongly against the continuation of the commercial business enterprise of our neighbor. This is a quiet neighborhood and we don't want that to change. The set up of a huge covered structure certainly indicates an ongoing business. I heard that they are claiming a financial need to keep the integrity of their home. With upcoming wedding events we are anticipating a lot of noise from these large gatherings. We are unable to attend tonight's meeting.
thank you, We have lived here 36 years and have enjoyed a quiet peaceful neighborhood.
Thank you for you consideration.
Bert and Debbie Willis

Sent By: Debbie Willis

Sent From: [REDACTED]

||

From: Anthony Sweeney [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment - March 26, 2024 - DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE ONE-FAMILY (R-1) ZONE
Date: March 26, 2024 at 11:25
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

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City Council Public Comment / March 26, 2024

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE ONE-FAMILY (R-1) ZONE: HOME OCCUPATIONS

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council

I am planning to repurpose an out building on my property to be used as a small outdoor garden cafe. Seating for approximately 20 guests.

I am also planning to convert a portion of my garage to hold art classes for 20 or so students. All workers will be independent contractors and not directly employed by me.

I think you will agree that this is not the type of business that was intended by the Home Occupation Ordinance. However, it is essentially the type of business activity that has been allowed to occur at 89 Olive Ave / The Lavender Marketplace, Workshops and Event Venue for more than 6 years. Business activity that occurs primarily outdoors within less than 50 feet of neighboring homes. Business activity that has attracted hundreds of non-residents to our otherwise safe and quiet street. The Lavender Marketplace's negative effect on our neighborhood, include:

- Increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- Lack of street parking for residents
- Increased noise due to outdoor activity
- Guests loitering on street and in vehicles
- Increased commercial vehicle traffic
- More than 60+ events in past 3 years
- Hundreds of non-resident guests drawn to our street

All resulting in a disruption to the quality of life for the surrounding neighbors.

Please amend the Home Occupation Ordinance to limit business activity in the R1 Zone - not increase it. By softening the ordinance or adding exemptions you open the door for others to start retail businesses in the R1 zone which could be detrimental to the character of Sierra Madre.

Owners of historical properties currently receive preferential treatment via the Mills Act and the Adaptive Reuse of Historic Landmarks ordinance. The addition of more exemptions, would increase the benefits to an already privileged few at the expense of the majority of the residents of Sierra Madre.

Any decisions that support an increase in business activity and transient traffic into the R1 zone will not be in the best interests of Sierra Madre residents and the safety of our community.

Don't blur the lines. Continue to restrict retail business to the Business District and keep it out of our residential neighborhoods.

Best regards,
Anthony Sweeney
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment - March 26, 2024
Date: March 26, 2024 at 10:32
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

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City Council Public Comment / March 26, 2024

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE ONE-FAMILY (R-1) ZONE: HOME OCCUPATIONS

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council

I do not support any amendments and/or exemptions to existing City ordinances that will encourage and/or support an increase in business activities in the R1 (Residential) Zone. Residential zoning should protect the residents of Sierra Madre, not businesses.

Best regards,
Brian Sweeney
[REDACTED]

From: George Eaton [REDACTED]
Subject: Condition of Mountain Trail Ave
Date: March 25, 2024 at 15:15
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

My public comment letter, titled Condition of Army Trail Ave incorrectly cited the avenue's name in question. The correct name in question is Mountain Trail Ave. Please forgive my mistake and present the correct avenue's name in public comment..

Thank you.

George W Eaton

[REDACTED]
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
[REDACTED]

From: George Eaton [REDACTED]
Subject: Condition of Army Trail Ave
Date: March 23, 2024 at 16:24
To: Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS,
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A number of months ago I had called the council's attention to the paving's poor condition of Army Trail Ave from Sierra Madre Ave to Orange Ave. Repairs were made to potholes that have appeared over time, but that has only contributed to the roughness of the ride over many other repairs. Auto suspensions must be badly affected.

Please consider a much needed repaving of this one block that should be an important artery in Sierra Madre.

Thanks,
George W. Eaton

[REDACTED]
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
[REDACTED]