

February 5, 2019

Dear Clairemont Community,

My name is Omar Passons, I grew up in Clairemont in the mount streets about three blocks from Holmes Elementary School and am now the new Director of the County Health and Human Services Agency's Division of Integrative Services. As part of my role, I've recently started working to help lead the community engagement and outreach process for the redevelopment of the closed Crime Lab near Balboa and Genesee off Mt. Etna with affordable housing. With others on our team, including Chelsea Development, we've begun reaching out to Clairemont's leaders and volunteers to listen and deepen our understanding of the community's vision for this site. The process is still in its early stages, and the specifics of the future apartment homes and overall project design have not been developed, despite some early conceptual designs shared previously. As the County moves to address our region's housing affordability crisis, we have had some missteps, and I just want to own that up front.

Upcoming Dates

February 19th – 6:30 PM 4680 Hidalgo Ave, San Diego – CPG MEETING

March 12th to 14th (exact date and location TBD) – First Community Workshop

The start of our larger outreach effort will include one-on-one meetings, group workshops, bus tours, going door-to-door and other ways of connecting with the community. We will also be attending the February 19 Clairemont Planning Group meeting at Alcott Elementary, to provide a project update. We take our role in helping address our regional affordable housing crisis seriously and believe that a project at this location can be a really good thing; however, we also understand that the process must include the valuable input and participation of the members of the community who live, work and shop nearby.

Last week, our team submitted the start of the Community Plan Amendment process to the City of San Diego. It is a draft document that lays out options and is a starting point for City review, not an endpoint that cuts off community discussion and input. This document will be public with the likelihood of revisions as the process moves forward. We want the community's constructive feedback on areas that will make the project one that benefits this community and accounts for resident's needs. The draft document includes requests like preserving options for multiple entrance and exit points, possible development standard guidance and a sincere request for feedback.

As a former member and long-time volunteer with the Greater North Park Community Planning Group, I believe there is a role for community input. Our team and I will be here to listen. This does not mean that every suggestion will result in a change, but it means that we commit to our role in this community as partners seriously and we will respect your time.

Applying for a ministerial, or "by right," process for development **after** the Community Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Report has been submitted does not remove the discretionary parts of the approval process. The County and its partners will continue to welcome constructive input throughout this process.

To stay in touch on this project or provide feedback, you may email me directly at omar.passons@sdcounty.ca.gov . To view project updates and information, visit the project website at: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sdhcd/community-development/current-housing-developments/>

Thank you for your time and for giving us a chance to work together with you on a project that can be great for the community and respect the community's needs.

Warm regards,
Omar Passons