

## Kallas, Emily

---

**From:** Shashank Divekar <shashankdivekar@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:26 AM  
**To:** Kallas, Emily  
**Cc:** Jayashree Divekar  
**Subject:** Objection to Palo Alto Commons Extension Plan  
**Attachments:** IMG\_5862.jpg; IMG\_5861 (1).jpg; IMG\_6230.jpg

You don't often get email from shashankdivekar@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.**

---

Hello Emily,

This is regarding the extension plan of Palo Alto Commons to add more stories with the addition of 14 rooms.

We live in a single family home on 4054 Wilkie Way, right behind the Commons. We hereby would like to voice our strong opposition to the plan as it significantly affects the value of the property and our privacy. Adding these 14 rooms would create a tall high rise wall with overlooking balconies right behind our backyard fence. Palo Alto has valued schools, unique and prized houses and a great sense of community. We do not want this to be disrupted. The current existing structures at Palo Alto Commons are already a compromise when they were first constructed. There can be no further compromises.

At the Community outreach meeting, we understood that Charlene Kussner from the Commons would model a two-story addition, and we have heard nothing about that. Her offer seems disingenuous and misleading at this point.

We are also writing to ask about the 2 x 4 wooden structures or “sticks” as Charlene referred to them. If the plans are not approved why are they adding the sticks/wood structure? See attached photos. When can they be taken down? They are oppressive and depressing for us and the noise from the ongoing construction is bothersome. If they are not approved, they are also illegal. We are no longer able to use the backyard to relax anymore or for any other family activities that require privacy. As you can see from the photos, the structures already tower over our backyard.

We understood Councilman Lauing to have said at the study session that the rooms and services at the Commons cost \$225,000.00 per year. That is over \$3,000,000 revenue increase for the Commons with the addition of 14 rooms. Though the city will collect more tax revenue, it does not have to be at the expense of the residents along Wilkie Way and W. Meadow. We are also concerned about increase in visitor traffic on our street due to increased residents in those 14 rooms. It is unfair to us to have our lives and quality of life forever altered because of this extension.

PLEASE HELP STOP THIS EXTENSION PLAN OF PALO ALTO COMMONS !!

Sincerely,

Shashank Divekar (650) 681-7494

Jayashree Divekar (650) 681-7495

## Kallas, Emily

---

**From:** seanshari <seanshari@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 6, 2024 5:49 PM  
**To:** Lait, Jonathan  
**Cc:** Velasquez, Ingrid; Kallas, Emily; Rice, Danille; City Mgr; hermesmh2@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Re: 4075 El Camino Way - The Commons Expansion

Hello Jonathan,

I'm happy to say that the "sticks" outlining the proposed expansion are now *down*!

Thank you very much!

Happy New Year!  
Sean and Shari McDaniel

On Dec 22, 2023, at 2:42 PM, seanshari <seanshari@comcast.net> wrote:

Hello Jonathan,

I'm sorry to say that the "sticks" outlining the proposed expansion are still up.

Thanks for your communication.  
Happy holidays!

Sean McDaniel

On Dec 20, 2023, at 1:31 PM, Lait, Jonathan <Jonathan.Lait@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

Hi Mr. McDaniel,

Thank you for your email message below. I understand the poles have been removed. If this is not consistent with your understanding, please let me know. With regard to the pending development application, please continue to coordinate with Emily Kallas the project planner reviewing the application. She can provide you updates and let you know of opportunities to participate in the process going forward.

Thank you,

Jonathan

<image003.png> **JONATHAN LAIT**  
Director  
Planning and Development Department  
(650) 329-2676 | [jonathan.lait@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:jonathan.lait@cityofpaloalto.org)  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)

[<image004.png>](#)

---

**From:** Family <[seanshari@comcast.net](mailto:seanshari@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2023 12:44 PM  
**To:** Council, City <[city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)>  
**Cc:** [hermesmh2@yahoo.com](mailto:hermesmh2@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Re: 4075 El Camino Way - The Commons Expansion

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from [seanshari@comcast.net](mailto:seanshari@comcast.net). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

---

Dear Council Members,

Below is the email and photos that I recently sent to Emily Kallas at the city planning office. My neighbor, who is "cc" on this email, informed that it would be better to send it to you council members as you are the final decision makers.

As you take a look at the photos, you can imagine the invasive nature of the proposed expansion.

I know that many of my neighbors work full-time and it is hard for them to carve out the time to communicate. All that I have spoken to are opposed to this expansion. The compromises were made for The Common's structure and its impact on nearby residents when first built. I have lived with those impacts for 30 years. The Commons already encroaches on our lives and increasing the structural height along the Wilkie Way side of the building is unacceptable.

Thank you for your representation.

Sincerely,  
Sean McDaniel

> Hello Emily,  
> I am writing to ask about the 2 x 4 wooden structures or "sticks" as Charlene Kussner from the Commons referred to them. When can they be taken down? They are oppressive and depressing for us. We don't go in the backyard to relax anymore.  
>  
> I have attached some photos for your review and for the council's consideration regarding the appropriateness of this proposed expansion.

>

> At the Community outreach meeting, I understood that Charlene would model a two-story addition, and I have heard nothing about that. Her offer seems disingenuous at this point.

>

> We are still very opposed to the development. I believe Councilman Lauing said at the study session that the rooms and services at the Commons cost \$225,000.00 per year. That is a \$3,000,000 revenue increase for the Commons with the addition of 14 rooms. Though the city will collect more tax revenue, it is unfair that the residents along Wilkie Way and W. Meadow have their lives forever altered.

>

> I hope all is well for you. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

>

> Sincerely,

> Sean McDaniel

>

>

>

<image013.jpg>

<image014.jpg>

<image015.jpg>

<image016.jpg>

>