

From: [Neil Murphy](#)
To: [Architectural Review Board](#)
Cc: [Sharlene Carlson](#)
Subject: 4260 El Camino Real - Bright Red Color
Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024 6:20:26 PM

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

Hi all,

Hope this finds you well. I'm writing regarding 4260 el Camino Real. It looks like the ARB had a review for a facade update on 2020-07-02 [0]. Your recommendation to approve was based in part on this section:

The applicant proposes to completely cover the building exterior in metal panels. The panels are smaller and darker on the front façade and tower element, and larger and lighter on the sides and rear. There is also corrugated metal siding to accent the front and rear gables. The metal panels fit at the corners with a flat outside corner trim. Adjacent panels sit flush with little relief between panels.

The proposed color scheme is shades of gray, with red accents for the roof and gables, and black for the windows and other architectural elements.

What was actually done however, was the entire building was painted a bright barn red.

As a result, the walls inside my home are red from the reflected light in every room, whether I want them to be or not. Photos attached.

When I look out of my living room window, there is a bright red building. This is my view now. Have you ever seen the Seinfeld episode where a fried chicken restaurant with a huge red neon sign opens across the street from Kramer? It's a bit like that.

I notice that the ARB's primary responsibilities [1] include:

- Enhance the desirability of residence or investment in the City
- Enhance the desirability of living conditions upon the immediate site or in adjacent areas
- Promote visual environments which are of high aesthetic quality and variety and which, at the same time, are considerate of each other.

Obviously, painting a build this large in that color challenges all three of these responsibilities. It looks like your 2020 recommendation was based on a completely different design: "shades of gray, with red accents for the roof..." That's what the ARB approved, but that's not at all what they actually did.

I was just surprised to find that the ARB's approval was for something completely divorced from the actual result. Mine is one of 27 units that now look out at the same bright red view.

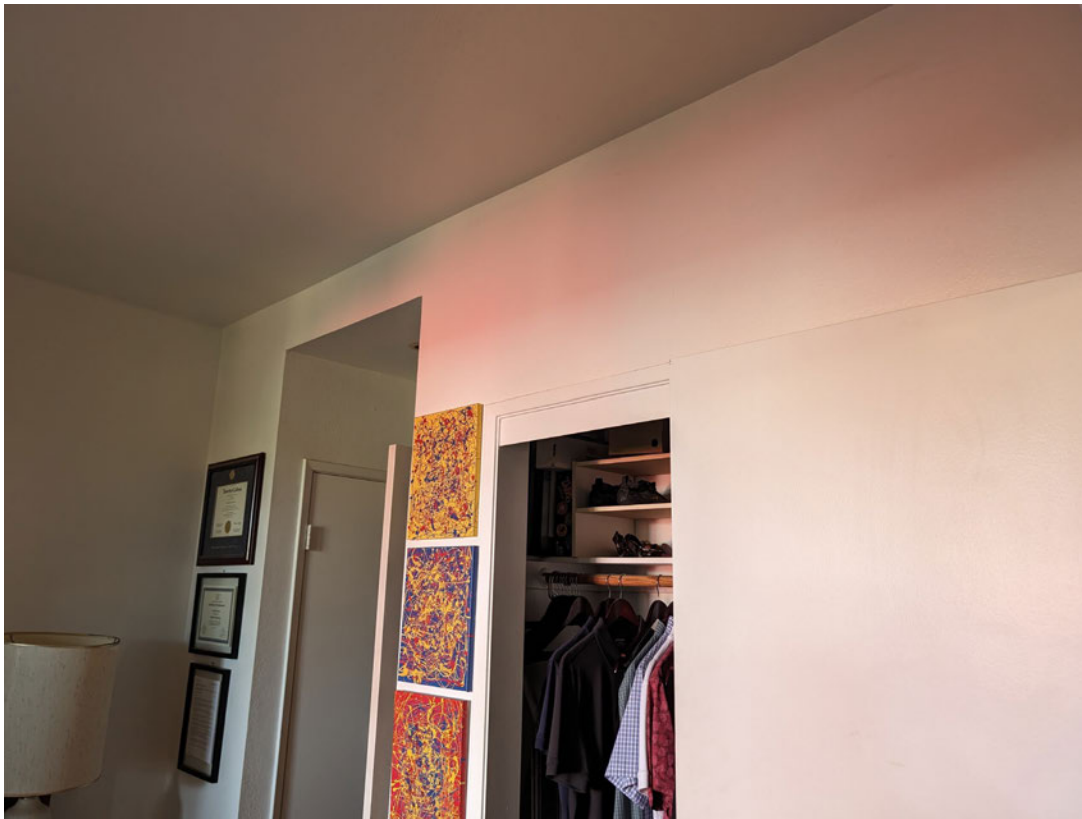
Is there any recourse, or can developers promise anything in an ARB review and then go on to do whatever they please?

Thanks in advance,

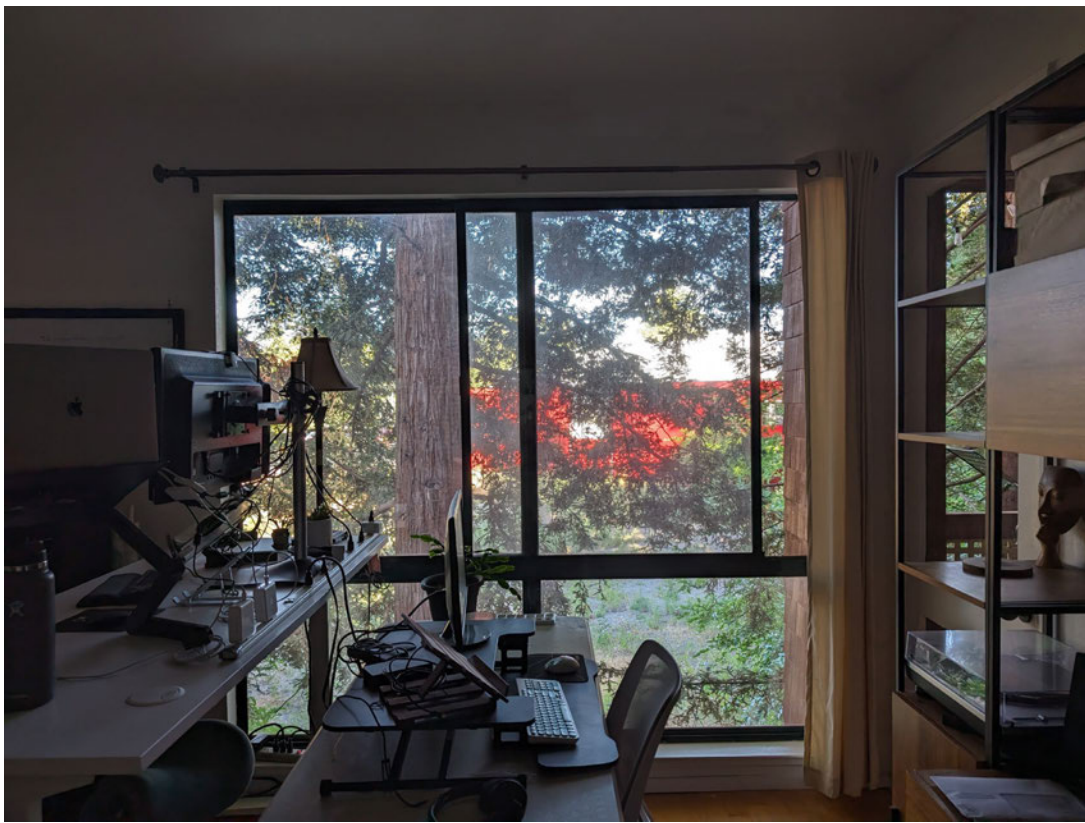
-Neil Murphy
650-504-4433

References:

- [0] <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/agendas-minutes-reports/agendas-minutes/architectural-review-board/2020/arb-7.2-4260-ecr.pdf>
- [1] <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/Departments/Planning-Development-Services/Architectural-Review-Board-ARB>







From: [Flora Moreno de Thompson](#)
To: [Architectural Review Board](#)
Subject: Please support new homes at 660 University Ave without delay!
Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 5:02:40 PM

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

Palo Alto Palo Alto Commissioners,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the proposed 63-unit housing project at 660 University Ave. As a resident of this vibrant community, I am thrilled about the prospect of welcoming such a valuable addition to our city.

The proposed housing project offers an incredible opportunity to enhance our downtown area. One of the most exciting aspects of this project is its proximity to downtown amenities and the Caltrain station. Having housing within walking distance of these essential resources not only promotes a more sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyle but also fosters a stronger sense of community among residents.

Furthermore, as a resident who cherishes the unique character of Palo Alto, I believe that the addition of more housing options will only enrich our city. Palo Alto is in dire need of housing, and this project presents a timely solution to address this pressing issue. The project has been in the pipeline for over 3 years which is a testament to the developer's patience and commitment to providing more housing to the downtown area. They have also included more lower-tiered-income housing than what is required by the city. Access to low-income housing is vital to make the downtown area accessible to more people, ensuring that individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds can partake in and contribute to our community.

In conclusion, I urge you to support this housing project for the betterment of our community without further delay! By embracing initiatives that promote sustainability, inclusivity, and affordability, we can ensure that Palo Alto continues to thrive as a dynamic and welcoming place to live.

Thank you!

Flora Moreno de Thompson
flo.mo.tho@gmail.com
350 North 4th Street
San Jose, California 95112

From: [Dylan O'Connell](#)
To: [Architectural Review Board](#)
Subject: Please support new homes at 660 University Ave without delay!
Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 10:17:34 AM

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Palo Alto Palo Alto Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the proposed housing project at 660 University Ave. As a nearby resident, I am excited about the positive impact this development will have on my community.

Its location is ideal, and this is a small but critical step towards the city's sustainability goals. I am troubled by how long this project has been in the pipeline, and I do not want it to be stuck a day longer than it needs to—we badly need more housing, and we need it fast.

I strongly urge you to support this project. Thank you!

-Dylan O'Connell

Dylan O'Connell
dylan.potter.oconnell@gmail.com

Mountain View, California 94040

From: [Heather Stewart](#)
To: [Architectural Review Board](#)
Subject: Support new homes at 660 University Ave!
Date: Thursday, June 13, 2024 3:12:45 PM

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Palo Alto Palo Alto Commissioners,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed housing project at 660 University Ave in downtown Palo Alto. This project will be a tremendous asset to the community and the region as a whole.

I am a homeowner and live less than a mile from this proposed project. I strongly support more housing density in Palo Alto. I would like to see our political leaders take action to make Palo Alto more sustainable and inclusive with more housing stock, improve housing choice for residents and newcomers, and bring more vibrancy to downtown. Not building more housing (multimillion dollar single family homes don't count) is not an option.

The addition of 63 units to the area is a beacon of hope in addressing Palo Alto's pressing housing shortage. The project's proximity to downtown amenities, including Caltrain station and ample bike parking, makes the project an attractive place to live, while promoting environmental sustainability.

Moreover, I am particularly impressed by the project's commitment to inclusivity. Setting aside 20 percent of the units for lower-tiered affordable housing showcases a dedication to providing opportunities for individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to thrive in the community. By prioritizing affordable housing and urban development, we can create more sustainable and inclusive communities for everyone. It is necessary for Palo Alto to expand housing options and accommodate the needs of a growing population and I urge you to take action by supporting this project with no further delay.

I look forward to witnessing the short term and long term positive impacts that this project will have on Palo Alto and the surrounding community. Thank you.

Heather Stewart
heatherlstewart87@gmail.com

Palo Alto, California 94301

From: [Amie Ashton](#)
To: [Council, City; Planning Commission; Architectural Review Board; Human Relations Commission; PABAC](#)
Subject: Foundations of Affordable Housing
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024 12:28:34 PM
Attachments: [Palo Alto Foundations of Affordable Housing \(1\).png](#)
[Social Media Square Image.png](#)

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Honorable Council, Commission, and Board Members,

You are invited to join members of the community on **Thursday, July 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Avenidas** (or online via Zoom) for an evening dedicated to discussing facts, myths, and concerns related to affordable housing in our community.

Foundations of Affordable Housing (presented by [SV@Home](#)) will help eliminate confusion about what affordable housing really is, how it meets community needs, and how it is financed and constructed. Attendees will be better equipped to speak about and advocate for affordable housing (and all housing).

RSVP for the in-person event at Avenidas

here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/928289548027?aff=oddtcreator>

RSVP for the Zoom event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/928296117677?aff=oddtcreator>

Amie Ashton

Foundations of Affordable Housing

with **sv@home**

Are you concerned about
homelessness and housing
affordability, but not sure what the
solutions may be?

Do you want to be part of making
your community healthier and more
vibrant?

Join us for this hybrid
workshop to learn more about
Affordable Housing!

Register today!

Open to all,
free of charge



Thursday July 18th



6:00 pm



Zoom, or Avenidas
450 Bryant Street, Palo Alto

Register for in-person at
bit.ly/PA_Foundations

Register for virtual at
bit.ly/PAFoundationsZoom

In
person >



Virtual >

