

From: [seanshari](#)
To: [Foley, Emily](#)
Subject: Re: 4075 El Camino Way - The Commons Expansion
Date: Saturday, May 6, 2023 12:05:40 PM

Hello Emily,

We have had some time to review the plans and to imagine the changes when viewed from our backyard.

We are opposed to this development as planned.

The building will go from 1 to 3 stories 12 feet from our backyard fence. Plus, on top of the third story I already see HVAC equipment, which may be relocated above the third story nearest our fence. Also, I don't see how they keep the trees alive after cutting them to accommodate the construction.

I remember a large tree in the courtyard that blocked our view of third story units. It is gone (died?) without any replacement planted.

In short, they want to expand to 3 stories on all of the existing footprint. If we understand the plans correctly, the North sides are adjacent to Wilkie Way residences. They appear to be large areas of square footage expansion.

The original development was approved "as-is" to minimize the negative impact on the Wilkie Way residents.

It is upsetting to imagine the changes to our quality of life, and our property values, should the expansion go through as planned.

Regards,
Sean and Shari McDaniel

> On Apr 25, 2023, at 7:22 PM, seanshari <seanshari@comcast.net> wrote:

> Thanks for your efforts!

>

> Sean

>

>> On Apr 25, 2023, at 5:03 PM, Foley, Emily <Emily.Foley@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

>>

>> Hi Sean,

>>

>> The direct webpage with the plans is now available: <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/News-Articles/Planning-and-Development-Services/4075-El-Camino-Way>. In the future, this webpage will also be updated with public hearing information.

>>

>> Thanks,

>> Emily

>>

>>

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>> Emily Foley, AICP

>> Planner

>> Planning and Development Services Department

>> (650) 617-3125 | emily.foley@cityofpaloalto.org

>> www.cityofpaloalto.org

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>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Family <seanshari@comcast.net>

>> Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 2:32 PM

>> To: Foley, Emily <Emily.Foley@CityofPaloAlto.org>

>> Subject: 4075 El Camino Way - The Commons Expansion

>>

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>> Hello Emily,

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>> I used the QR code to access the Pending Projects section on the Planning and Development website. I don't see the address listed for project plans. I infer that means that they have not submitted plans yet. Is that correct? Did I miss something?

>>

>> Thank you,

>> Sean McDaniel

>> 4060 Wilkie Way

From: [Family](#)
To: [Foley, Emily](#)
Subject: Re: Palo Alto Commons Expansion Objection
Date: Thursday, April 20, 2023 9:22:07 AM

Hi Emily,
Thank you for your thoughtful response.
Sean

On Apr 19, 2023, at 4:43 PM, Foley, Emily <Emily.Foley@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

Hi Sean,

All “stepped” portions of the building, including the portion closest to you, will be increasing to a flat height of 3 stories.

I also wanted to take a moment to mention that this project is considered major and will have multiple public hearings. It will need recommendations for approval from the Architectural Review Board and Planning Commission before potentially receiving Council approval. Council may also have a study session to consider the application prior to ARB and PTC.

I’m happy to answer any additional questions about this, but my intent is to assure you that you and the neighbors will have many opportunities to provide comments.

Thanks,
Emily

<image002.png> **Emily Foley, AICP**
Planner
Planning and Development Services Department
(650) 617-3125 | emily.foley@cityofpaloalto.org
www.cityofpaloalto.org

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<image003.png>

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From: seanshari <seanshari@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:07 AM
To: Foley, Emily <Emily.Foley@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Subject: Re: Palo Alto Commons Expansion Objection

Good morning Emily,

We went by the front of the building last evening , and I have attached a photo of the sign. It's pretty small. I wouldn't have noticed it if you hadn't mentioned it.

I'm sorry I wasn't clearer on my question to you. We have a one floor portion of the building 10 or 12 feet away from our fence and backyard (4060 Wilkie Way). Would the Commons be adding an additional story there? Would they be adding two stories there?

I scanned the QR code and will explore information at that website too.

Thank you,
Sean McDaniel

On Apr 18, 2023, at 1:45 PM, Foley, Emily
<Emily.Foley@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

Hi Sean,

Yes, please feel free to share my contact information with any interested parties. There is supposed to be a sign viewable from the street in front of the building, please let me know if this is no longer the case. The sign should have a description of the project and my contact information.

In terms of the exact setback, one of my comments from my initial review was that the setbacks were not dimensioned. However, I can confirm that there is no ground floor addition facing your side, some existing 1 story and 2 story parts of the building will become 3 story, no taller than the 3 story portions of the existing building.

Thanks,
Emily

<image001.png> **Emily Foley, AICP**

Planner
Planning and Development Services Department
(650) 617-3125 | emily.foley@cityofpaloalto.org
www.cityofpaloalto.org

[<image003.png>](#)

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From: Family <seanshari@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Foley, Emily <Emily.Foley@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Subject: Re: Palo Alto Commons Expansion Objection

Hi Emily,

First of all, thank you for your response and creating a communication link.

We reside at 4060 Wilkie Way. If I understand the letter correctly, one of the additions will be 10 to 12" away from our back fence. Can you confirm that?

We would like to understand the scope of the project, so that we can give our input. We have reservations, but we also are open to fully understanding the impacts before passing judgement. Please advise us of resources available to us regarding this proposed expansion.

A little background: I grew up in our home. We purchased it from my mother in 1994. So, I have recollections of the original development of the Commons. The stepped rise of the building floors away from the fence line was part of the initial approval. They have been neighbors for about 30 years (?). Never have they reached out before this expansion plan.

I have spoken to my immediate neighbors and would like to share your contact information. May I text your email address to them?

Thank you again for your outreach.

Regards,
Sean McDaniel

On Apr 17, 2023, at 4:12 PM, Foley, Emily
<Emily.Foley@cityofpaloalto.org> wrote:

Hi Sean and Sharareh,

As Robin said, I am the Project Planner for the proposed expansion at Palo Alto Commons. I have received your comments in the prior email and noted your concerns. Please let me know if you have any further comments, questions, or would like to discuss the project further. At this time, we have not yet established a schedule for public hearings, but this project will include public hearings throughout the entitlement process.

Thanks,
Emily

<image001.png> **Emily Foley, AICP**
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From: Building <Building@CityofPaloAlto.org>

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 8:45 AM

To: Family <seanshari@comcast.net>

Cc: Foley, Emily <Emily.Foley@CityofPaloAlto.org>

Subject: RE: Palo Alto Commons Expansion Objection

Good morning Mr. & Mrs. McDaniel,

I am forwarding your email to Emily Foley, included.

Emily – please reply to the email below. Building does not need to be included in your correspondence.

Thank you,

<image002.png> *Robin Ellner*
Administrative Associate III
Planning and Development
Department
(650) 329-2603
| robin.ellner@cityofpaloalto.org
www.cityofpaloalto.org

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From: Family <seanshari@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Building <Building@CityofPaloAlto.org>
Subject: Palo Alto Commons Expansion Objection

You don't often get email from seanshari@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello Planning Department,

Attached find a letter we received from the Executive Director of the Palo Alto Commons.

We are writing because the letter indicates that Palo Alto Commons is working with the City of Palo Alto Planning Staff. I would like have the contact information for the staff member with whom they are working. I believe the Palo Alto Commons (WellQuest Living) is a profit-based business, so I am skeptical of their communications about the impact of any expansion.

In general, we object to additions or expansion to the building just over the fence from our backyard. I disagree with their assertion that there will be no direct impact to our visual field. We also have other objections including but not limited to sound echoing off of the building, sounds from the building operation, home values, and privacy.

For now, we are not sure of our rights and want to establish a communication line outside of communicating with Palo Alto Commons.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sean and Sharareh McDaniel

Freedom is Within You.