



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 ARE COMMENTS RECEIVED
FOR THIS MEETING**

Joseph Nosrat

Subject: FW: 174 S. Lima St

From: Janet Owens [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:16 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com>
Subject: 174 S. Lima St

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

My name is Janet Owens and I own the property at [REDACTED], directly across the street from the subject property.

Building a second story on the new construction will negatively affect the privacy of those living to the North, South and East of the lot. How can one property owner prevail when virtually all the neighbors are against the plans? Their property values will decrease as well as mine. No one wants to buy a house when there is no privacy in the backyard. The lot is quite large and a 4,000 sq foot single story home would still leave at least 6,000 sq feet for a generous yard. I am sure that the developer and owner feel that a 2nd story will maximise the amount they will be able to get when they sell. I disagree. This house will stick out and not blend in with the neighborhood and will not be as attractive to potential buyers.

Unfortunately, the staff report looks like it is a foregone conclusion that this project will be approved. There are papers already written and places for signatures and dated Jan 18, 2024. Contrary to the staff report, this home does not preserve the privacy of neighbor's properties. #2 on your report it says it will not interfere with the use and enjoyment of the surrounding and adjacent properties, it will. #3 says the bulk scale is compatible with the existing neighborhood, it is not. #4 says that it is not so ill proportioned so as to detract from the foothill village setting, it does. #5 and probably most important, the project does not interfere with views and privacy of neighbors, it does! #8 says this proposed project is a superior project that would enhance the neighborhood and exhibit exceptional design. Did the applicant write this staff report? Not one of the neighbors' concerns are contained in this report. This is a resolution dated Jan 18, 2024 on your website, ready for signatures to approve without hearing from neighbors, seems a bit unfair and premature.

I am still mystified as to why we as neighbors were not consulted for our input for this project. Most other cities have the developer and owner meet with the neighbors as a courtesy and good will on the part of the owner. This doesn't happen with spec houses because the owner doesn't care about anyone but himself and what he is going to get when he sells. Why, if he is really going to reside in this property would he want to have virtually every neighbor against his home?

Please, it may seem minor to the commissioners, but it means a great deal, personally and financially to the neighbors, to require a one story home on that lot. I fear that if you approve this, it will just be the beginning. and Sierra Madre will be just another Rosemead, San Gabriel, or lower Arcadia before you know it. Arcadia Village successfully fought off mansionization by using an architectural review board that does not allow second stories any more. Even in Upper Hastings Ranch in Pasadena, they no longer approve second story additions because of view and privacy concerns.

Thank you for taking the neighbor's concerns into account with this matter.

Sincerely,
Janet Owens