

**From:** Roxanne Cyr <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 7:17 PM  
**To:** Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>; District Elections  
<districtelections@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** redistricting

Everything in my community revolves around the lagoon. We really need one district to include everyone along the lagoon. This is the water run off for the whole city and it's really important. In my opinion, it's also the best and most unique recreational area in the City.

**From:** Robin Gage <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 5:00 PM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <[CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org)>  
**Subject:** No At-Large Mayor

Dear Council Members,

Please let our mayors continue to rotate. I am against an at-large mayoral position which doesn't seem necessary. I have really appreciated the rotational nature of the mayor role in San Mateo and feel it gives all San Mateans a stronger, more equitable voice. Electing a mayor for 4 years would seem to introduce additional campaign costs and a bought mayor.

Sincerely,

Robin Gage

[REDACTED]  
San Mateo

**From:** Michael Nash [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** District Elections  
**Date:** August 23, 2021 at 8:58:14 AM PDT  
**To:** [clerk@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:clerk@cityofsanmateo.org), [Citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.com](mailto:Citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.com)

Dear Councilmembers:

I strongly support the continuation of the annual rotation of the role of San Mateo mayor. **I strongly disapprove of creating an at-large mayor position in San Mateo.** The idea that an overarching mayor would knit the new districts together has been proposed as a reason to change the current process for appointing a mayor.

The opposite is more likely to occur since the at-large Mayor position would become a force unto its own, not a unifying one, as the individual in that position would have a unique group of voters that could change the dynamics of the council with a single person elected at large. It would also require a reduction (or increase) in the number of districts to maintain an odd-numbered council.

It would be better to continue the rotation that we now have to give each councilor the same role and the understanding that a collaborative position will avoid "getting even" when it is another councilor's time as Mayor.

Michael Nash  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Susan Rowinski <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, August 30, 2021 5:28 PM

**To:** Eric Rodriguez <[erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Rick Bonilla <[RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Joe Goethals <[jgoethals@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:jgoethals@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Amourence Lee <[alee@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:alee@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Diane Papan <[dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org)>

**Cc:** Drew Corbett <[dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org)>; [info@redistrictingpartners.com](mailto:info@redistrictingpartners.com)

**Subject:** District Number and Mayor- City of San Mateo

Dear City Council Members,

**I recommend council move ahead with five districts and a rotating mayor district model. The four reasons for my recommendation are as follows,**

- 1) It is the district model with the highest probability of becoming an ordinance relative to the other district models. This does not change the city charter and be voted on by the residents,
- 2) It is the most time efficient district model because it does not require a vote by the residents to change the city's charter.
- 3) It is the most straightforward and least controversial district model for residents to understand and appreciate and,
- 4) It is the least disruptive to our city governance processes, approach, its overall character and ethos.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments contained in this email.

Finally, I am a commissioner on the city of San Mateo Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission (SIC). The content contained within this email do not reflect those of the SIC.

The content does reflect my personal comments based on being a resident of the city of San Mateo since January 1999.

Susan Rowinski

[REDACTED]

San Mateo 94403

**From:** Susan Rowinski <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 01, 2021 4:30 PM

**To:** Eric Rodriguez <[erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:erodriguez@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Rick Bonilla <[RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:RBonilla@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Joe Goethals <[jgoethals@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:jgoethals@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Amourence Lee <[alee@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:alee@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Diane Papan <[dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:dpapan@cityofsanmateo.org)>

**Cc:** Drew Corbett <[dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Patrice Olds <[polds@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:polds@cityofsanmateo.org)>; Prasanna Rasiah <[prasiah@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:prasiah@cityofsanmateo.org)>

**Subject:** Community of Interest- Neighborhoods in Proximity of Hillsdale Garden Apts

Dear City Council Members,

The Hillsdale Garden Apartments has a well-documented history of murders, assaults, gangs and gun and drug violence. The result is unsafe conditions for the many law-abiding apartment residents and the family homes within proximity to the Hillsdale Garden apartments.

I am reminding council of the Hillsdale Garden Apartments because the family homes sharing a property line with and in proximity to the Apartments **SHOULD NOT** be included in the same Community of Interest as the Hillsdale Garden Apartments.

The homes are located on Lois Lane, Hacienda Street, 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, 37<sup>th</sup> Ave and Edison Street . These homes **SHOULD** be included in the Community of Interest with the other similar single-family homes located in southwestern area of the city.

Another distinguishing Community of Interest characteristic is the Hillsdale Garden Apartments are comprised solely of renters. The family homes sharing a property line with and in proximity to the Hillsdale Garden Apartments are primarily owner occupied.

Summarized under the asterisk line are recent criminal and illegal incidents that have taken place at the Hillsdale Garden Apartments.

For additional criminal and illegal incidents contact Lt. Sanchez of the San Mateo Police department. He can also provide details on how the police are managing the gang related problem at the Hillsdale Garden Apartments.

Regards

Susan Rowinski,

San Mateo [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

- **Homeowners REQUEST for ACTION - Council Engagement for On-Going Issues w/ Hillsdale Garden Apartments**

January 11, 2021

Re: REQUEST for ACTION - Council Engagement for On-Going Issues w/ Hillsdale Garden Apartments (HGA)

Honorable Mayor Rodriguez,

For years, as residents who live around the Hillsdale Garden Apartments, we have dealt with chronic issues emanating from this large neighborhood complex.

Most troubling was the murder on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at the Wells Fargo Bank branch at Hillsdale Shopping Center. Sadly, the victim was a resident of HGA. Prior to this incident, there were two other shootings and an assault with a hammer, all occurring at Hillsdale Garden Apartments.

The San Mateo Police Department has been tremendous in their efforts to address the many complaints surrounding HGA. While there have been some improvements, including the eviction of a troublesome gang member and adding a more experienced on-site property manager, the problems are far from resolved. Residents who live near HGA deal daily with numerous issues stemming from the apartment residents, which include:

### **Security**

- Essex, the property management company for HGA, has hired part-time security. Unfortunately, this is not adequate and 24/7 on-site security is required. Would also like contact information provided for Essex security that neighbors can contact if necessary.
- SMPD advises that Essex is now screening incoming rental applicants more. Again, this falls short as it fails to consider current tenant issues.
- Encouraging Essex to install more visible security cameras in their public areas would help identify and target individuals committing
- We believe the City would have more success with Essex, a large corporate entity, by working at a level above their on-site property management.

### **Parking**

With the overflow of residents at HGA, and not enough parking spots, this has impacted parking on the streets in the surrounding areas. Some reasons for this impact:

- On Edison between Hillsdale Blvd. and 36th Ave., there are new No Parking/No Stopping signs installed, which has taken away an entire street of parking that previously was available to Garden Apartment residents. When and why did the reduced parking occur? Having this parking removed has impacted the area on surrounding streets, causing additional overflow of parking. Serco Parking Enforcement can likely confirm an increase in parking complaints on surrounding streets recently due to these approximate 10+ parking spots being removed.
- There are no parking stalls provided to 36-units of HGA, which is against City ordinance, and other units that are two/three bedrooms only provide one parking stall per unit which is not sufficient and causes overflow parking onto surrounding streets.
- There are numerous inoperable vehicles permanently parked in the carports at Hillsdale. Removal of these vehicles will free-up additional parking spot
- A parking agreement with Bohannon will assist with overflow

### **Trash**

Trash issues include bags of garbage tossed over neighbor fences, dumpsters piled high against fences, with one dumpster recently catching fire and damaging the neighboring fence. This trash brings an infestation of rodents. Some of the trash and rodent issues have been remediated. Essex has approved more dumpsters and pick-ups and surrounding residents have seen an improvement on Hacienda Street but clearly more needs to be done.

- The trash in the creek which drains to the Bay must be addressed as this poses a serious environmental
- Increasing the number of rat traps along bordering neighborhoods will help with the rodent

### **Illegal Activity**

- Neighbors have witnessed daytime drug deals.
- Neighbors have witnessed people urinating on neighbors

We have met several times with the SMPD and have been updated regarding their actions. We are now asking you, as our Mayor, to take action to address these on-going and serious issues in our community.

We are aware that the San Mateo City Council has intervened in the past. In 2008, then Councilmember Carole Groom helped neighborhood residents with HGA code enforcement issues, which included problems with vermin, lack of proper alarms and fire extinguishers.

As tax paying residents, we know our City is in a tight spot financially, due in large part to pension costs and Covid-19. We do not feel that our city/tax dollars should be paying countless overtime hours for our Police Department to be doing the job Essex Property Management is responsible for – ensuring their complex is clean, safe, crime-free, and that their residents abide by rules Essex sets forth regarding parking, numbers of tenants per unit, etc.

There is no reason homeowners and apartment dwellers at Hillsdale Garden Apartments cannot live in harmony. We hope that with your support and intervention, progress can be made in solving some of the more glaring problems created by Hillsdale Garden Apartments.

We would like to hear back from you and determine how you can partner with us to regain the quality of life in our community.

Sincerely,

Concerned San Mateo Residents CC

Deputy Mayor Bonilla, Councilmember Goethals, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Papan, San Mateo Police Chief Barberini, Robert L. Webster – President/CEO Bohannon Development Co.

- **City Manager Response to Homeowners Jan. 11 2021 Letter**

**From:** Drew Corbett <[dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org)>

**To:** [REDACTED] >

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 02:25:47 PM PST

**Subject:** Response to Issues at Hillsdale Garden Apartments

Ms. Fuqua:

Thank you for your letter to the Mayor and City Council dated January 21st regarding you and your neighbors' concerns with the Hillsdale Garden Apartments (HGA). Upon receipt of your letter, I requested that staff look into these issues, and I also scheduled a meeting with Essex. This meeting was held on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Below is a summary of some of the discussion points that we had with Essex, as well as some of the actions we have taken/will take to address identified issues at the apartment complex.

### **Security**

- Management at HGA will work more closely with SMPD to coordinate better on crime reporting so that HGA is aware of problem units and can address them to the extent the law allows.
- HGA is very close to completing the 2020 audit for over-occupancy, and based on those results will address any issues. This, like addressing problem tenants, does have to go through a legal process, which has been made more complicated due to the pandemic. HGA is committed to addressing problem tenants, but it has to be done through a legal process.

- The City and HGA are both aware that the creek and the bridge from Hillsdale to Trader Joe's is problematic and a homeless "hot spot". The City is going to see if there are ways to "harden" that area to make it more difficult to access.
- The PD will continue to work with HGA on security issues and encourage them to increase their overall security presence on site.

## **Parking**

- HGA is currently working on a parking audit and will be implementing a permit program to encourage residents to use their carport spaces. HGA will also be towing inoperable vehicles on 2/1.
- HGA does have 26 units that do not have carport spaces; however, we do not believe they are in violation of our ordinance due to the age of the complex. These spaces were likely in place prior to specific parking standards being put in place. As noted above, they are working to make better use of their existing on-site parking.
- With respect to the reduced parking on Edison, there is insufficient roadway space to accommodate parking on both sides and two-way traffic. As a result of this vehicles were parking on the sidewalk, which also created a problem. Per the Beresford/Hillsdale Traffic Action Plan and at the request of residents, Public Works removed parking on the east side of Edison and shifted the centerline to restrict parking to one side of the street. This change was implemented a few years ago and prioritized pedestrian safety and accessibility on the sidewalks.
- Overall, parking is a challenge throughout the city. HGA is working to make better use of its existing carport spaces, however, ultimately on-street parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis to any driver provided they are following posted parking restrictions.
- The City can facilitate a shared parking agreement between Essex and Bohannon if both sides are amenable to that option. City staff will reach out to Bohannon's team to assess interest.

## **Trash/Vector Control/Code Issues**

- On December 29<sup>th</sup>, a Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) met at the site with a representative of the property management company and Vector Control to address site conditions. On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, another (CEO) was sent out to take a look at the current conditions. This CEO took pictures (will send as separate attachment because original message bounced back due to size) and reported that she did not observe any trash in the creek and overall the site looked pretty clean. She noted that some of the dumpsters are missing lids, so City staff will work with Recology to see if they can be replaced. There was also a crew onsite that day replacing the fire-damaged fence.
- HGA noted that they have waste management on site 4-6 hours per day and work to get the bins emptied in a timely manner. They also have 4 full-time porters addressing issues as well. They acknowledged that weekends are problematic and are working to get that addressed, perhaps with larger bins.
- Our Code Enforcement staff will monitor the area on a weekly basis to ensure the dumpster areas are kept clean.
- HGA is aware of the illegal dumping and is working to address it. This is an issue that we have citywide. Please continue to report illegal dumping to HGA and the City.
- Vector Control has placed 26 bait stations in Laurel Creek and are monitoring them monthly. Based on our meeting, HGA said they will request more are added.

## **Illegal Activity**

- If you witness illegal activity occurring onsite, please report it to SMPD immediately. We will continue to work with HGA on a more proactive approach to safety and security, but it is important that illegal activity get reported immediately.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have additional questions or if you would like to discuss this further, please let me know.

Thanks,



Drew Corbett

City Manager

330 W. 20th Ave. San Mateo, CA 94403

650-522-7000 | [dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:dcorbett@cityofsanmateo.org)

- **Shooting Homicide Hillsdale Garden Apartment resident in the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot**

December 19, 2020

For Immediate Release

No. 20201219-087 Saturday,

Detectives Actively Investigating Homicide

The San Mateo Police Department is actively investigating a homicide that occurred on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 9:25 a.m. at Wells Fargo Bank located at 81 W Hillsdale Blvd. Please avoid the area as officers conduct the investigation.

At this time, detectives have determined this was a targeted and isolated incident. We have launched an intensive investigation to bring all responsible parties to justice.

Anyone with information or surveillance footage related to this shooting is encouraged to contact Detective Sergeant Paul Pak at (650) 522-7660 or [pak@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:pak@cityofsanmateo.org). Anonymous tips can be submitted to <http://tinyurl.com/SMPDTips> or by calling (650) 522-7676. Additional information will be made available as this investigation develops.

Remember, if "You see something, say something." We're encouraging our community to utilize security cameras. They are especially helpful in identifying suspicious activity in neighborhoods when cameras are street facing. Our officers regularly canvass for surveillance and you can help us by notifying SMPD where cameras are located in your neighborhood at [www.cityofsanmateo.org/Nest](http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/Nest).

MEDIA INQUIRES

Michael Haobsh

Public Information Officer | Office of the Chief

City of San Mateo Police Department

200 Franklin Pkwy, San Mateo, CA 94403

650-522-7626 | [pdpio@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:pdpio@cityofsanmateo.org)

**From:** Linda Tolosano <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 3, 2021 3:29 PM  
**To:** District Elections <districtelections@cityofsanmateo.org>  
**Subject:** San Mateo Districting Comments - Update

I also wanted to add that five to seven city council members elected by district for a four year term makes sense. I do not believe the City of San Mateo should elect the Mayor At Large. The Councilmembers should choose among themselves who will serve as Mayor and Vice Mayor for a one year term.