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To: [Council, City](#); [City Mgr](#)
Cc: [Kou Lydia](#); [Ann Balin](#); [Andie Reed](#); [Mary Gallagher](#); [Mary Sylvester](#); [Dave Price](#); [Port Ross](#)
Subject: Item 9: Leave Town & Country RETAIL Zoning Alone
Date: Saturday, November 5, 2022 3:54:42 PM

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Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council and City Manager,

Please leave Town & Country retail /restaurants alone unless you want us driving more to service our basic shopping needs, forcing us to go to Menlo Park and Los Altos and spend our money there. Why are you so determined to make the lives of residents tougher in your rush to placate landlords??

Didn't the city just hire a senior manager of Retail DEVELOPMENT? How about *developing* retail instead of killing it? And why are you simultaneously pushing for more commercial gyms when the city's contemplating spending \$\$\$\$ on a city-run gym??

The conversion of Town & Country was laughably pushed last year by Ms Cormack at the urging of Ellis Partners who was pleading poverty due to the pandemic lockdown which was lifted **WEEKS** after the proposal was made. Surprise surprise, shoppers returned and the biggest problem is now finding parking!

Staff didn't even bother to define "medical/retail" -- they just wasted time and our tax dollars when common sense should have told them shoppers would return when the lockdown was lifted, And surprise: they did!

We need the sales tax dollars. We DO not need more offices and gyms. Please do not recycle the absurd claims that people sweating after their workouts or hurting after their medical procedures are going to increase shopping. What retailer wants sweaty people trying on clothes as was absurdly claimed during the last go round?

Since staff never bothered to contact any of the past and present retailers about their treatment by the landlords Ellis Partners, several of us concerned shoppers joined with Lydia Kou to do just that -- on our own time and our own dime. We contacted present and past retailers. We learned how Ellis had systematically chased out long-time family businesses like the owners of Village Cheese House, eye doctor Lisa Berkowitz -- WHILE Ellis was claiming to want medical practitioners -- the multi-generational women's boutique Prestige -- and so many more.

Where was the city staff on this?? They're supposed to be supporting retail

development and working with landlords to PRESERVE retail, not kill it. Vice

The shopping center is thriving and serving community needs. Why do you keep trying to destroy what's working for the community??

Please leave it alone. In the immortal words of John Mitchell: If it ain't broke, don't "fix" it!

At the very least survey the community about whether we want a new gym when the city is proposing using OUR tax dollars to build a city-run gym!! Where's the common sense?? I thought we were broke and needed more tax revenues? At least that's what you keep saying.

Most sincerely,
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