

## **Supplemental Communications (4)**

(The following are communications received  
**September 16, 3:15pm- Meeting**)

**Lapira, Katrina**

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From: PAUL D LEE <[beistorage17@yahoo.com](mailto:beistorage17@yahoo.com)>

Date: Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 10:48 PM

Subject: Paul Lee's Statement to Berkeley Planning Commission Special Meeting, 9/16/20 - CORRECTED To: Chris Schildt <[cschildt@gmail.com](mailto:cschildt@gmail.com)>

Good evening.

Malcolm X said: If you stick a knife in my back nine inches and pull it out six inches, that's not progress. If you pull it all the way out, that's not progress — because it won't heal the wound that the blow made.

I'm not only speaking for myself, but I'm also presuming to speak for my fellow native "black" Berkeleyans who aren't joining this meeting because they don't have the proper technology; because they're intelligent enough to have lost faith in Berkeley's pro-developer, gentrifier-friendly city government; or because, like most of us, they've been displaced and exiled against their will to Godforsaken cultural wastelands like Antioch and Pittsburg.

#### WHITE POWER AND US

The presence of "black" and other non-"white" people in Berkeley had EVERYTHING to do with the machinations of White Power and NOTHING whatever to do with the wishes of those of us who were herded into South and West Berkeley by redlining and restricted to these districts by the Berkeley Police Department.

Likewise, the progressive disappearance of "black" and other non-"white" people from Berkeley is MOSTLY due to the insidiousness of White Power and has very little to do with our preferences.

Thus, our existence in this city is defined by our being pushed around by White Power, which obligates me to do my best to speak truth to this power.

#### THE LASTING WOUND

Despite the best efforts of "black" community leaders to avoid our community being ravaged like majority-"black" districts in Oakland were when BART was built in Berkeley in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the

Ashley station drove right thru the vital beating heart of the city's northern non-"white" commercial and cultural district, which was known as South Berkeley Square

It ran down Grove Street, now Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, from Woolsey to Ashby.

This was tantamount to slicing thru our jugular vein. "Black" and other non-"white" businesses bled out to Sacramento Street and to East Oakland.

"Black" Berkeley, in particular, never recovered from the destruction wrought by creating a convenience for "white" people at the expense of a non-"white" district.

#### BERKELEY COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

Ironically, the Berkeley Community Flea Market occupies the very spot of this devastating economic, cultural and social violation.

Quite appropriately, the market faithfully mirrors and sustains the rich ethnic diversity, innovative entrepreneurial spirit and strong sense of community kinship that made historic non-"white" Berkeley such a unique and beloved home for people like myself, which managed to thrive in the face of the historic racism of the rest of this supposedly "progressive" city, which fought tooth and nail to integrate its schools and didn't do so until 1969.

#### WHO DESERVES HELP?

When I was in high school, I taught beginners' swimming to elementary school students. Whenever I had to choose between extending a helping hand to a child with a flotation device and one without one, I naturally reached for the latter.

That's what "white" privilege in Berkeley and thruout the country does for "white" people — it sustains them and keeps their heads above water.

Not only do "black" people lack this protection, but they're also pulled to the BOTTOM by the weight of the ongoing operations and legacy of "white" supremacy, which is currently experiencing a resurgence, including in Berkeley, where outsiders and newcomers presume to dictate to its historic "black" residents, even though, relatively speaking, most of them arrived here only yesterday afternoon.

#### TWO DEMANDS

So it adds insult to injury that we have to come before this body to ask for — no, to DEMAND — the SIMPLE JUSTICE of the RIGHT OF RETURN for exiled "black" Berkeleyans and the REESTABLISHMENT OF NON-"WHITE," AND PARTICULARLY "BLACK," BUSINESSES AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, including the PROTECTION and PROMOTION of the flea market.

The city and BART MUST understand that those of us who are exiled from our home remain VITALLY interested in and committed to it. We not only want to come home, but we DESERVE to.

However, as the Portland, Oreg., plan proved, the right of return is meaningless if people are offered homes that they can't AFFORD.

Therefore, any housing built at the Ashby BART station — which, I should emphasize, is NOT what the "black" community wants — must be 100 PERCENT AFFORDABLE for those of us who were forced out of

our community because of the harm that was inflicted by BART and the city.

Similarly, the flea market must NOT be shunted off to the side, where it will eventually die a quiet, unceremonious death. Instead, just as it's the beating HEART of what's left of non-"white" Berkeley, it should also be the SEED of this special community's economic and cultural rebirth.

If the Adeline Corridor Plan does not do these two things, it's not worth the paper that it's printed on.

CONFIRMATION?

Indeed, it will be read by "black" and other non-"white" Berkeleyans, both those who've managed to remain and those who were forced out, as yet another in a long train of racist subterfuges — merely SEALING the destruction, displacement and disempowerment that began with the building of the Ashby BART station.

Moreover, failing to do these two things would also confirm our worse experiences of and fears about Berkeley's endemic, systemic racism and make us question IF we have a future in a city that's mostly led by politicians who SAY all the right things and DO all the wrong things and, thru their actions, are consigning us to the fate of the Ohlone, whose land this TRULY is.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Paul Lee, Exiled South Berkeleyan  
3300 Kingsland St.  
Oakland, CA 94619  
(510) 290-0653  
Email: [beistorage17@yahoo.com](mailto:beistorage17@yahoo.com)

**Lapira, Katrina**

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**From:** Yahoo Mail <turley.anderson@att.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020 4:37 PM  
**To:** Pearson, Alene  
**Subject:** Housing around the Adeline Corridor

**WARNING:** This email originated outside of City of Berkeley.  
**DO NOT CLICK ON** links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

"By their fruits you shall know them." Christian scripture

Hello,

I understand that the Planning Commission will address the matter named above tonight. Here is my input as a long time resident of Berkeley, a Cal alum and former staff member there.

One of the above mentioned fruits that has been common in Berkeley in recent years is much public moaning over the decrease in the African-American population of, particularly, South Berkeley over recent decades. Another fruit sadly has been little or no effective effort to halt and reverse that phenomenon.

Berkeley has a history of effective action to slow and rectify discriminatory social and economic relations. If the City is to be true to its self-proclaimed image, we must adopt the housing goals of the Friends of Adeline Corridor. I've heard urban planners on panels speak favorably, if wistfully, of housing policies that prioritize, not just toss a few coins at, lower income people. They always note that "available capital just isn't there to implement them."\* In times of tardy but increased awareness of systemic racism and White privilege, Berkeley has a chance now to put up or shut up about housing policies that truly remedy our own systemic racism.

Thank you for your work and attention,

Judy Turley

\*My husband and I are in conversation with a lawyer who works on land trusts. He noted that there's been a heartening increase in people contacting him in order to direct their limited means toward more equitable housing. May Berkeley look more widely in order to work with more than just the usual developers who have perpetuated the problem (and then go live in Danville or Piedmont.)

**Lapira, Katrina**

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**From:** Katharine Bierce <kbierce@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:08 PM  
**To:** Pearson, Alene  
**Subject:** Planning Commission comments: Supporting 100% low income housing and more

**WARNING:** This email originated outside of City of Berkeley.  
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Hi - I'm on the call but it looks like it is going late so I may have to sign off and can't speak, so I'd like to express my support for affordable housing at Ashby BART/Adeline corridor.

**I support:**

1. All housing on publicly-owned land MUST be dedicated for 100% low-income housing that our community can actually afford, as well as a guaranteed future for the Ashby community flea market and its vendors.
2. At least half of all housing in our community, both new and old, must be affordable for low-income people, including family-sized units. Developers should not be allowed to pay a fee to get out of building the low-income housing we need.
3. One-third of our housing trust fund must go to South Berkeley, with at least a minimum of \$50 million over 10 years.

I support the subcommittee's revisions to the Adeline Plan, and ask the Planning Commission to adopt all of the subcommittee recommendations, including a goal of 100% affordable housing at the Ashby BART station, a guaranteed future for the flea market, hiring local residents for jobs created in the corridor, and a right to return for people who've been displaced or are at risk of displacement.

Sincerely,

Katharine (South Berkeley resident since 2013)

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Katharine Bierce  
[kbierce@gmail.com](mailto:kbierce@gmail.com)  
415-449-0959  
Check out my [yoga blog!](#)

**Lapira, Katrina**

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**From:** Emily Chow <emmy1690@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020 5:27 PM  
**To:** Pearson, Alene  
**Subject:** Affordable house - Friends of Adeline  
**Attachments:** Housing in the Adeline Corridor\_FOA.pdf

**WARNING:** This email originated outside of City of Berkeley.  
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Hi, I have lived and worked in Berkeley for 8 years. I support the Friends of Adeline Community Initiative around affordable housing. Affordable housing will always be an important issue in the Bay Area, but it's become increasingly important amidst a global pandemic, economic crisis, unemployment crisis, and increasing socio-economic disparities. I hope you will support increasing affordable housing in our Berkeley community.

Thanks so much,  
Emily

**Lapira, Katrina**

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**From:** Thomas Luce <tomfluce@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:59 PM  
**To:** Pearson, Alene  
**Subject:** 100% low-income housing, Ashby community flea market and vendors....

**WARNING:** This email originated outside of City of Berkeley.  
**DO NOT CLICK ON** links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Berkeley Planning Commission,

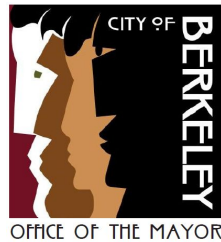
I am In support of the Friends of Adeline demands:

1. All housing on publicly-owned land **MUST** be dedicated for 100% low-income housing that our community can actually afford, as well as a guaranteed future for the Ashby community flea market and its vendors.
2. At least half of all housing in our community, both new and old, must be affordable for low-income people, including family-sized units. Developers should not be allowed to pay a fee to get out of building the low-income housing we need.
3. One-third of our housing trust fund must go to South Berkeley, with at least a minimum of \$50 million over 10 years.

Sincerely,

Tom Luce 1515 Fairview St. Apt. C, Berkeley, Ca 94703 510-575-6326





September 16, 2020

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Mayor Jesse Arreguín and Councilmember Ben Bartlett

RE: The Adeline Corridor Specific Plan

We understand that tonight you will be discussing the Adeline Corridor Specific Plan — a plan that will guide the future of an important area of our city and also relates to potential development projects at the Ashby BART Station. As you deliberate, bear in mind the process that has been established by the City Council and BART for the purposes of drawing broad community participation and providing valuable input to the Planning Commission as you consider zoning standards that will be consistent with the City's obligations under AB 2923. Members of the CAG were appointed with an eye toward ensuring a diversity of voices, perspectives, and life experience. We acknowledge the complexity of your task and appreciate your expertise as you move forward with your discussions. We ask that you respect the CAG process as adopted by the City Council, which is currently successfully engaged in providing an arena for robust community participation.

Thank you for your service,

Mayor Jesse Arreguín and Councilmember Ben Bartlett