

Greg Rehmer

From: Robert Pease
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 5:11 PM
To: Laura Bowen
Cc: David Brantley; Greg Rehmer
Subject: Re: Proposed LDS Temple

Hi Laura,

Thank you for following up and sharing your concerns. I am asking that your comments be included as part of the public record on this project.

My understanding is that the project will be before the Planning Commission on May 11. If there is anything else that you would like to add or discuss, please let me know.

Robert Pease

From: Laura Bowen <laura.b@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 8:13 PM
To: Robert Pease <rpease@yorbalindaca.gov>
Subject: Proposed LDS Temple

Robert,

I sincerely appreciate that you took the time to respond to my prior email regarding the proposed structure for the LDS Temple. I reside at 17041 Rosebud Drive. My property backs up to Bastanchury Road and the Church of Latter-Day Saints (17130 Bastanchury Road). I would like to reiterate that I have no issues with the LDS Church. They have been nice neighbors in the years that I have owned my home. I would like to find a way to come to a compromise that does not infringe on the value and enjoyment of my home.

Since my previous email, I have attended both community meetings provided by the LDS church to address concerns of the neighbors.

Meeting #1

The first meeting conducted by the LDS church on March 29th came across very disingenuous. The meeting was proposed as a way to share information about the projected Temple with neighbors surrounding the site. I would guess that 75% of the people in attendance were members of the LDS Church. Throughout the meeting, our concerns were countered by comments of those people sitting in front of us and behind us that if this Temple is not approved the land will be sold and turned into high density housing or a homeless shelter. It was and is disheartening to hear questions about changes to a very quiet neighborhood countered with such aggressive tactics to scare neighbors. I walked away from the meeting very disappointed.

Meeting #2

The second meeting conducted by the LDS church on April 14th was intended to answer the questions that came up in the prior meeting.

Meeting Take-Aways:

Structural Height

The height of the spire (metal cross) was lowered by 7 feet. This change does not impact the concerns regarding the height of the structure. The building and tower will still be **99 feet and 6 inches**. We are still looking at a structural height of almost 10 stories tall. This site for the proposed temple is surrounded by neighbors on three sides. This is a

quiet neighborhood that will forever be changed. The view from my home will no longer be hills and greenery, rather a disproportionate white structure that will impale the beauty of my neighborhood.

Shadow Report

The extended shadow report was presented. This ten story structure will have a huge impact on the neighbors surrounding the site. Each morning, my home specifically will have an extensive shadow from the height of the tower. This shadow runs across my property and will have a forever impact of the landscape, beauty and future upgrades to my home. We have a garden in our yard that we grow vegetables. We have also been considering solar panels. With such an extensive shadow, the organic vegetables we grow will be impacted. I also can not commit to the cost of solar panels when such a shadow will impact the energy produced. The biggest impact of this shadow will be the aesthetics, beauty and enjoyment of my home. I live here every day. It is not just a site that I attend for a specific event and leave. I respectfully ask that you review the impacts of the daily shadow and how it will impact neighboring homes.

Usage

I was surprised by the planned usage of the Temple. This is not a building that will serve our community. The intent of the building is for members of the LDS Church that are in good standing within an 18 mile radius. These are some of the cities that are within the 18 mile radius of this location – Pomona, Cerritos, Whittier, Corona, Diamond Bar, Santa Ana, Cypress, Buena Park. I am concerned that the demographics of a quiet neighborhood would forever be changed when the usage of the church does not benefit the community or surrounding neighborhood. I have lived in Yorba Linda for 45 years. I can walk into any church in this city and be welcomed as a visitor. This proposed temple will not welcome anyone into the building that is not a LDS member in good standing. Please consider the usage and how it will impact the community when considering the required conditional use permit to allow a structure that sits at 99 feet and 6 inches (10 stories).

Traffic

The traffic concerns were downplayed by the presentation from the LDS church. The information shared was based on absolutely minimal use of the temple. The size of the structure and meeting/wedding rooms do not correlate to the number of people proposed to use the building. The size of the proposed building is 30,000 square feet. We are being told the maximum amount of people at any given time could not be more than about 150 people. This also does not include the members of the church that are onsite every day. A letter generated to the city based on usage indicates there will be 50 people working at the church during open hours. The church also expects daily visitors to enjoy the grounds. For a church/temple of this size, the members of the LDS church that provided the presentation to the community have said they really have no idea what to expect on a daily basis. How will this impact the traffic that is already a terrible bottleneck at the corner of Bastanchury Road and Imperial Highway? I am curious how this will impact parking on the site as well as streets surrounding the location. Osmond, La Serena and Rosebud streets all have walking access to the horse trail that surrounds the proposed site. Will this encourage overflow parking in our quiet neighborhoods?

Open House

The LDS church holds an open house to present the new temple to the community. This is the only time members of the surrounding neighborhood will be welcomed into the temple. I researched the open house for the temple in the city of Redlands. The open house was held from August 9 through September 6, 2003. The statistics are concerning – 11,000 people volunteered to help with the open house and more than 140,000 people were able to tour the temple. This is a very quiet neighborhood; surrounded by residential neighbors on three sides. The sheer amount of traffic and cars this will generate in our community and neighborhood is astounding. When asking the members of the LDS congregation giving the presentation, the response was met with a disappointing plan. They have utilized local parking lots in prior temple open houses and organized transports from these lots but ultimately they cannot control where people decide to park as they will not stop walk-in traffic. Imagine for a moment how upwards of 140,000 visitors during a 30 day period will impact this quiet, almost rural community.

Building Time Line

The LDS church has provided a rough timeline of 30 months to complete the building of this proposed temple. The driveway location is literally right behind my home. For 30 months, six days a week, the enjoyment of my home and yard will be impacted by construction noise between the hours of 7am and 8pm. This includes Saturdays. We have been told that there will be only one driveway on Bastanchury, which means this one driveway will be the only access point for all construction vehicles. At a minimum, is there any way to change the conditional use permit to include no

construction on Saturdays? This truly is a quiet community. Neighbors walk their dogs on the horse trail and sit outside in their yards throughout the week, especially on the weekends. Construction (noise and dust/debris) six days a week between 7am – 8pm will severely impact the serenity of the community in which I purchased and created my dream home.

I bring these concerns to your attention in hopes that as a city we can create a compromise to build good relations between the neighbors and the LDS Church. Again, I have no issues with the Church of Latter-Day Saints. I value working together for the good of the community. If I had to pick one issue that is forefront – the height of the tower. The lot size of around 5 acres does not create enough of a setback that the tower will not obstruct my home and value. There is no hiding a structure that is 10 stories tall that sits in my backyard. There is no amount of trees that line my yard that will hide the view of a 10 story structure. I respectfully ask that appropriate compromises are reached to ensure our quiet community keeps the integrity in which we all bought our homes. The west side of Yorba Linda is almost rural with horses, goats and chickens. Please help us to maintain our community and protect the rural neighborhood that all of us as neighbors love.

Thank you!

Laura Bowen

(714)343-7563