

To the Riverside City Council Planning Commission –

My name is Franklin Tse. My wife and I have lived on Banbury Drive since 2014. We spent a great deal of time looking for houses and neighborhoods that we thought would be a great location to settle down and raise a family. We chose Banbury Drive after careful consideration. Unfortunately, during the time we have spent here, we have experienced what we consider the “worsening” of our once vibrant neighborhood.

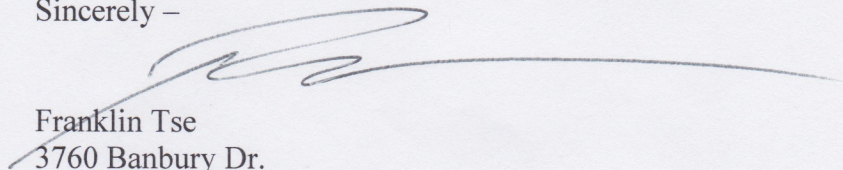
Crime has increased significantly, such that if you were to ask everyone in our neighborhood, I’m sure someone has stated they have been a victim of a crime. I have witnessed drug deals right in front of my house. I have seen graffiti written on the side of homes several times. I have seen cars driving up and down our street at high rates of speed. My lawn and driveway seem to be a favorite spot for people to throw away their trash.

In my opinion, saturating the area of even more dwellings would worsen everything I have mentioned above. We already deal with the influx of traffic due to the apartments that we have down the street on Banbury towards the 91 freeway. I can not fathom what putting an apartment complex on the other side of our street will do for the crime, traffic, and overall well-being of our neighborhood. I feel endangered sometimes just backing out of my driveway since many cars speed down our residential street trying to take a shortcut down to Target from Magnolia street. Imagine 450 new units just across the street from us, with many who I’m sure enjoy shopping at Target and who would realize that our street would be less congested than Magnolia and Tyler to reach their destination. I would definitely not feel safe having our future children playing in our front yard. Our next-door neighbor already had a “hit and run” not from a car hitting her car, but a car hitting HER HOUSE. My other next door neighbor’s dog was tragically run over by a speeding car, who would have been able to stop if he were to have followed the normal speed limit for a residential area, which most people seem to ignore. I do not want to imagine what would have happened if that were someone’s child instead of their dog.

I understand that based on the meeting that we had with the developers, that these units would benefit Riverside as a whole. However, as selfish as it may be, I do not feel it would benefit me, my family, or the neighborhood and I don’t feel we should sacrifice our safety and well-being. I do oppose the development as a whole, but perhaps we could find a middle ground and reduce the number of dwellings planned.

There is a well quoted saying that you shouldn’t judge someone until you’ve walked a mile in their shoes. I can only say that unless you’ve lived where we live and will experience what I think we will experience, you would probably reconsider the development as well.

Sincerely –



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