

BNC Forum

February 23, 2019

A Berkeley Neighborhoods Council Invitation

Can we Keep Berkeley a Livable City for All?

Saturday, February 23, 2019: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Francis Albrier Recreation Center
San Pablo Park, 2800 Park Street between Russell and Ward

A Conversation between Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Planning Director Timothy Burroughs
and Berkeley Residents from Every Neighborhood

1. What State laws are in place RIGHT NOW that take away the power of the City to determine what gets built here?
 - a. What must be built at the South and North Berkeley BART Stations, Spenger's parking lot.
 - b. In our neighborhood shopping districts like the Elmwood, Solano, Adeline, or Sacramento Street.
 - c. When housing projects over ground floor retail are proposed in large shopping districts such as University, Telegraph, South Shattuck, North Shattuck and San Pablo Avenues?
2. What NEW laws are in the process of discussion, both at the State level and at the local level?
 - a. At the State Level: Senator Wiener's newest proposed law regarding four and five-story in and around transit stations, and CASA.
 - b. At the local level regarding neighborhood residential areas: 1). Councilmembers Droste, Bartlett, Robinson and Kesarwani's "Missing Middle Initiative" to encourage more duplexes, triplexes/fourplexes, courtyard apartments, bungalow courts in areas near parks, schools, employment, and transit.
 - c. Councilmember Bartlett's "Open Doors" Initiative to encourage turning single family homes into multifamily condominiums.
3. What exactly is the City of Berkeley's responsibility in regard to regional housing goals?
 - a. Each city council is required by State law to prepare an annual report on how well they are implementing their Housing Element. What does Berkeley's most recent report say?
 - b. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) sets housing goals called Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA) for a range of income categories. How are these goals set? Is it true that student dormitories aren't counted toward our goals? How well has Berkeley met these goals in each of the income categories?
 - c. According to the City's 2018-2019 Adopted Budget, page 31, there are 3,754 vacant housing units in Berkeley, but no one seems to know where these units are located. What's being done about getting this information?

Following this, residents will then join the conversation and have ample time to ask questions and state their concerns. Light refreshments will be served.