

I am writing to you not just as a resident of La Jolla but also as a concerned citizen deeply invested in the welfare and character of our community. It has come to my attention that there is a business-led proposal to convert the alleyway located at 8000 block of La Jolla Shores Drive into a parking lot. While I am in support of people-centric urban design and outdoor dining at Avenida de la Playa, I believe this development would be detrimental for several reasons.

The alleyway in question is not merely a thoroughfare; it serves as a communal space where the local residents connect and children play with a semblance of safety away from the main roads. It is also a space that supports local biodiversity, with vegetation – including endangered Torrey Pines – that is home to urban wildlife. Converting this space into a paved parking lot would pave the way for increased noise, pollution, and traffic, disrupting the peaceful enjoyment of our homes.

Moreover, green spaces and pedestrian-friendly areas are proven to enhance the quality of life in urban settings. The proposed parking lot stands in stark contrast to these values, potentially depreciating both the aesthetic and the economic value of our neighborhood. Although I am sympathetic to the restaurant owners, businesses there should not profit off public land at the expense of our residents.

I urge you to consider alternative solutions to the parking challenges faced by our local businesses. Options such as improving public transportation, creating multi-story parking structures in less intrusive locations, or incentivizing rideshare programs could address the issue without sacrificing our cherished spaces. I would strongly urge you to consider reducing the legal requirement for nearby parking spaces. People-centric urban design offers profound benefits by reimagining public spaces to prioritize human interaction, health, and sustainability.

I am eager to discuss this matter further and am open to participating in community meetings that may be held to address the concerns of residents. Please consider the lasting impact of this decision and how it aligns with the vision of La Jolla as a place that promotes a high quality of life for all its residents in addition to tourists from across the county and country.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and am hopeful for a resolution that preserves the character and integrity of our community.

Sincerely,

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