



**CITY OF SUNNYVALE
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

August 19, 2013

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert Walker, Assistant City Manager

THRU: Gary Luebbers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Councilmember Meyering's Question Regarding LinkedIn

During Council's meeting on August 13, 2013, following public comments regarding development trends in Sunnyvale, Councilmember Meyering asserted that the City Manager had signed a Report to Council indicating the LinkedIn project at Mathilda and Maude would not create "any visual impact to the residential neighborhood." He asked how that conclusion was arrived at.

Actually, the report in question (RTC 12-158) does not suggest that the project would be without visual impacts to the residential neighborhood. In fact, the report makes it quite clear that there will be visual impacts, including information on page 18 under the heading "Expected Impact on the Surroundings" that acknowledges "long-term project impacts include increased building mass and height." Page 20 of the same report discusses the Planning Commission hearing on this project, and the fact that lighting on the upper floors of the buildings could impact residential neighbors.

Council will also recall that there was significant discussion regarding these impacts during the public hearing that led to Council's eventual approval of this project, including discussion regarding the shade analysis conducted by staff to discern whether the buildings would violate related zoning standards.

Page 8 of Attachment C to the report (Mitigated Negative Declaration) does indicate that the project will not "*substantially* degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings including *significant adverse* visual changes to the neighborhood's character", and this reflected staff's position as well, given the mitigations recommended to minimize impacts to the project's surroundings.

Lastly, it's worth noting that staff's assessment of the impacts this project would have on the community were based not on the admittedly unsightly condition it is in now (steel skeleton rising out of barren dirt), but rather the anticipated finished product. As one member of the surrounding residential neighborhood recently expressed in a letter to the *Sunnyvale Sun* (August 16, 2013)... "there are many aspects of the approved plan that will surely have a positive impact on the City and even for those in the SNAIL neighborhood... I am pleased and excited to see the plans for dramatic improvements along the Mathilda Avenue edge of Peery Park: (including) replacing eyesores with well-designed structures..."