



See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette:
 www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 284-1968
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.lafayettechamber.org



1247 N. Scenic Drive, Lafayette | Springhill Mid-Century Charmer

3 Bedroom | 2 Bathroom | 1908± Sq. Ft. | .52± Acre Lot

Offered at \$1,395,000 | 1247NScenicDrive.com

COMPASS

Lafayette's #1 Realtor Since 2008

925.339.1918 | DanaGreenTeam.com | DRE 01482454



City formally requests state help with law enforcement on freeway overpass

By Pippa Fisher

City leaders took the next step in their attempt to deal with what they see as the ongoing distractions to traffic by protesters on the overpass in Lafayette by formally requesting help from state agencies.

The council voted unanimously at its March 8 meeting to escalate the situation with a resolution urgently requesting law enforcement on the bridge, to be sent to the California Department of Transportation, and the California Highway Patrol.

There was no discussion from the council or members of the public at this meeting, however the topic has been before the council earlier in the year,

including at a February meeting, which was also attended by CHP Officer Captain Ben Moser and by Caltrans Region Manager Will Hauke.

Pro-Trump protesters have used the El Curtola Boulevard overpass as a frequent and regular location for demonstrations since August 2020, attracting the attention of the heavy traffic passing underneath on Highway 24 with flags and signs attached to the chain link fence.

In her letter to Caltrans and the CHP, Mayor Susan Candell notes, "We were informed by your representatives that this is in violation of Streets and Highways Code 720-734, yet no action has been taken to correct it and the signs continue to be a

distraction to the motorists."

The demonstration has attracted counter-protesters on occasions, and the Lafayette Police Department has received numerous calls for service. Recently a flag was thrown from the bridge onto the freeway below by a counter-protester.

The challenge enforcing the law in this case is complicated by its being a bridge located in Lafayette but not owned by the city; a bridge owned by Caltrans which is not an enforcement agency, and over a freeway patrolled and under the jurisdiction of the CHP, which says it is not responsible for encroachment issues unless requested from Caltrans.

Complicating the issue still

further is the city's sensitivity to protesters' rights to free speech. "While the city of Lafayette recognizes and respects the First Amendment rights of all protesters, we are increasingly concerned about the safety of the motorists on the highway," said Candell in the letter.

In an email to the city dated March 8 Beth Colombini wrote that her daughters were "violently rear ended under the El Curtola overpass on Highway 24 on Friday, March 5 at 5 p.m. as Trump supporters were protesting." She said that she arrived on scene only to find out there were two accidents in the span of 15 minutes, and while they were talking to the CHP a third accident happened

right in front of them.

In another letter to council Carl Kalauokalani, however, urged caution in addressing the protests. "I ask that you reject the notion that expressing an idea atop a pedestrian walkway be considered anything other than a group of Americans giving voice to their concerns, and that you continue to preserve the right of all to express themselves in similar fashion."

The city has received multiple emails from people both concerned with traffic safety issues and impacts on residents in the neighborhood, as well as from people concerned that the city is trying to silence the protesters' message.

Exciting new public art coming to Lafayette



Renderings showing public art coming soon to the Lennar development.



An example of Aileen Barr's work - tiled steps in San Francisco.

By Pippa Fisher

It takes more than a pandemic to slow the work of the public art committee, it seems, judging by a recent presentation made to the Lafayette City Council highlighting the past year's work and giving a glimpse of future projects coming to the city.

In addition to the many areas of work highlighted in

the presentation, PAC Chair Susan Loria explained that during 2020-21 the committee has worked collaboratively with sponsors on seven new building projects – a 200% increase over the previous year. The art provided by new building projects has high visibility to the public, she noted.

Loria took the council through a series of slides

showing some of those projects. The Lennar Homes site – the three-story, residential and retail project at 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd. at the intersection of Dolores Road – will have two projects. The first, a large 12-foot tall, conical shaped, stainless steel, laser-etched sculpture, with a low energy LED lighting feature illuminating a pattern of migratory birds will be located

in the public plaza between retail space and a restaurant. Currently final adjustments are being made to the design, which will be subject to PAC approval. It is the work of design team Wowhaus, which has worked on projects in Oakland, Walnut Creek, Seattle and Boston.

The second art project at Lennar will be even more visible, said Loria, with a 200-foot length of colorful, mostly handmade ceramic tile mosaics by artist Aileen Barr on the planters and the staircase that leads to the trail being constructed to eventually run between Mt. Diablo Boulevard to the BART station. The black birds on a blue background featured on the staircase echo the design on the sculpture. Barr is also known for her mosaic work on outdoor staircases in San

Francisco.

On the other end of town, at the intersection of Brown Avenue and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, four art pieces by Joe Bologna will grace the site of the Mill at Brown, featuring two sculptures called Bird Row (brightly colored birds on a ledge), with a further two pieces called Friendly Gathering on Mt. Diablo Boulevard (birds on a utility pole, constructed specifically to keep sightlines clear for traffic).

Lenox Homes, at 210 Lafayette Circle, will be home to a painted steel, 10-foot sculpture called "Flight" by J.P. Long.

Additionally art projects are being considered for several other sites around the city.

... continued on next Page

LOCAL KITCHENS

Best local restaurants, easy takeout & delivery

\$10 off your first meal!

order.localkitchens.co

B.

1771 Poplar Drive, Parkmead

CONTACT ME FOR MY COMING SOONS

Ashley Battersby
 Broker/Partner
 DRE# 01407784
 (925) 323-9955
 ashley@ashleybattersby.com
 @ashleybattersbyhome
 www.ashleybattersby.com

It's Village. Of Course.