



**Barron
Square**

Special Notice

May 2, 2018



Palo Altans for Sensible Zoning

To All Barron Square Residents

Are you a registered voter? We need your help. We are trying to qualify a ballot initiative for November that will stop the doubling of office growth in Palo Alto that the current Comprehensive Plan allows. In a recent editorial, the Palo Alto Weekly stated:

"There is no constituency other than commercial development interests supporting new office development in Palo Alto, and every square foot of new office development approved in the city makes our housing shortage and road congestion worse."

(<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2018/04/27/editorial-hold-firm-on-office-cap>)

We agree!

The current Comprehensive Plan allows for 1.7 million sq.ft. of new office space over the 15 year life of the plan (2015-2030). That's over 113,000 square feet a year, as opposed to the long-term historic growth rate of 58,000 sq ft/yr, which has already handed us congestion, traffic and a 3-1 jobs to housing imbalance.

On Monday night the City Council "cemented" the office cap - BUT there was a lot of sand in the cement.

- The cap still only applies to 3 designated areas (Downtown, California Ave. and south El Camino)
- They added a 'rollover' provision so that allotments not used in one year could be added to the following year and
- the projects would be awarded on a 'first come, first serve' basis, not on the basis of appearance and quality..

Worst of all the cap could be changed at any time on a whim of the Council.

Our initiative -

- **Would cut citywide office/R&D growth in half, bringing it back to its long-term historic growth rate**
- **Would apply CITY-WIDE** - including Stanford Research Park, Stanford Shopping Center, San Antonio, West Bayshore and East Embarcadero.
- **Would be PERMANENT** - It would require a vote of the residents to increase the limit and could NOT be changed by a whim of the Council.

We need your help in getting this initiative on the ballot in November. We need to gather 3000 signatures in coming weeks.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Sign the PASZ Initiative

Please sign the petition. We will have volunteers at the Barron Square clubhouse collecting signatures::

- Wednesday, May 2nd, 2 PM to 5 PM
- Thursday, May 3rd, 4 PM to 7 PM

Or come sign at any of the following locations:

- Cal Ave Farmers Market between 9 and 1, Sundays, May 6 and May 13
- May Fete Parade, Saturday May 5, before the parade at University & Emerson, or after the parade at Heritage Park
- Downtown Farmers Market, May 12, 8-12.

Bring your friends and neighbors. Please feel free to forward this email to your contacts who are registered voters living in Palo Alto.

Please donate to underwrite the legal fees and for outreach to the wider community. We need your financial support as soon as possible. Checks can be made out to PASZ and mailed to P.O. Box 305, Palo Alto, CA 94306; or you can donate via PayPal from the PASZ website: sensiblezoning.org/donate.

The Barron Square volunteers who can answer your questions are:

Lucy Yuan (535) 320-9391 (cnlyuan@gmail.com)

Maurice Green (4106) 493-5914 (mauryg3@comcast.net)
