

Dear County of Lake Board of Supervisors:

This meeting catches me at a strange crossroads in my personal life. I am on my way to Israel as you are meeting (mid air in fact ), to visit my family: very elder parents, brothers, nephews, nieces and many friends. As you know the region is in great turmoil. One we luckily do not know here in Lake County in the 21st century.

I have had several conversations with the MAHA Team and I believe we have reached some agreements about reducing the number of rooms and room mates that each high density unit on the proposed Santa Clara property would introduce to Middletown

HOWEVER:

As one might expect of youth ages 20+ through 35 which as it was described to me is the target “audience” for the MAHA’s workforce, younger members of the workforce at MAC have expressed that they prefer singles and doubles to sharing kitchen and common space with 5 others.

While my friends at MAHA have given me their word they will meet with me and the diverse group of 5 youth that are employed with MAC ages 18-30, as well as other young adults to advise and re-design the site, this is not in writing. It is not legally binding.

What is proposed is a zoning variance that sets precedence for other developers to request variances that increase density in our fair and truly beautiful and spacious town/county.

There is a process underway now—to update our General Plan.

This process is both necessary and helpful to our community. And it is happening in our towns county wide.

There are flaws in our collective process Meetings are no longer consistent, and young people under the age of 40 plus have not really been solicited to be part of the conversation. It is imperative that their voice not be incidental, but rather centered. They are our present and future!

So: if we make a variance for MAHA rather than waiting for the General Plan updates—Currently the general plan does not include allowances for this sort of high density development proposed on Santa Clara in Middletown—we are setting a precedent for our general plan to be abandoned and overruled.

--I think we are investing time, energy and funds in this General plan update process. Do we really want to cast these efforts and expenses to the wind? Or do we seek integrity and authentic thoughtfulness in our community and economic development decision making?

Thank you for hearing me—albeit by letter and from the air,

Lisa Kaplan

Community Builder, Employer, Youth Mentor, Artist, and Educator

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Lisa Kaplan

Artistic/Executive Director, MAC