

## Communication from Public

**Name:** K. Kato

**Date Submitted:** 08/18/2025 08:11 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0247

**Comments for Public Posting:** “Does one stairwell create more safety for residents?” More studies need to be done as the wants of developers and desires of proponents do not equivocate safety. Some of our local building incentives include reduction of front setbacks, which creates less green space, not more. Fire engines: If the street is very narrow, there may not be enough room to even use a ladder truck for the proposed height of the multi unit buildings, Especially if two reduced setbacks multi unit buildings are directly across the street from one another on a narrow street /tightly curved street. This fact may be especially important with this proposal of a single stairway. Standards should be established to insure aerial ladder fire engines have enough room to adequately fight fire and use ladders to front facing egress windows. Each fire battalion should have a set number of working aerial fire engines based on the number of single stairway buildings in the battalion zone. Insure fire engines are on a correct replacement schedule. Additional costs or cost savings: 1. Envelope of the building carries the most cost, so buying multiple lots for a combined project AKA land assembly much more economical. 2. Fire rated walls, proposed also adds to the cost. 3. Higher rated fire sprinklers, at some additional cost, need specifications. 4. Families are having less children now, the urgency for even larger units is questionable. If double duplex builds sometimes house ten families, it’s obvious the same families would occupy these same single stairway buildings. Maximum occupancy would need to be enforced and fire drills mandatory. Question of Accessible Units: There is no State mandate to make these buildings with proposed single stairway to be accessible units for those with disabilities. Architects designed the Twin Towers, an innovative and economical design, but no one could imagine the disastrous effect. You can design it and you can build it - but is it safe?