City of Sierra Madre

Office of the City Clerk
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.,
Sierra Madre, CA
(626) 355-7135

THE BROWN ACT PROVIDES THE PUBLIC WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS AT ANY PUBLIC MEETING.

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING AND WILL BE POSTED ONTO THE CITY'S WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND TRANSPARENCY.

THE COMMENTS ATTACHED ARE SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. THE CITY DOES NOT CONFIRM THE VERACITY OF THE STATEMENTS PROVIDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

From: [redacted]
To: Public Comment
Subject: Meeting March 12 : DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 11:07:39 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and members of the City Council,

Thank you for including on your agenda, the discussion of Home Occupations and Temporary Uses in the residential (R-1) Zone this evening.

When we moved into our home 4 years ago we were looking forward to a certain quality of life; quiet enjoyment, privacy, and a sense of community. But then we realized we were living next to a home that was operating a business. It was unsettling to see our street and the surrounding streets packed with cars, hear talking and announcements every weekend and see the myriad of people walking back and forth. Businesses have their place, but when they encroach on residential areas, it feels like a violation of the trust we place in our communities.

Lavender Marketplaces is an event venue used for weddings, photoshoots, workshops, filming, catering, flowers - “A one-stop-shop” according to them on Instagram. R1 zoning in Sierra Madre reflects the city's commitment to fostering vibrant, family-friendly neighborhoods with a focus on residential living. It's essential to uphold zoning regulations not only to protect property values but also to preserve the very essence of what makes a neighborhood feel like home.

Best Regards,
Stefani Greenwood and Serge Monkewitz

From: [redacted]
To: Public Comment
Subject: March 12, 2024 Meeting - DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE ONE-FAMILY (R-1) ZONE: HOME OCCUPATIONS AND TEMPORARY USES
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 8:08:00 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

City Council Public Comment / March 12, 2024

DISCUSSION OF USES PERMISSIBLE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE ONE-FAMILY (R-1) ZONE: HOME OCCUPATIONS AND TEMPORARY USES

Dear Mayor and members of the City Council

Thank you for including on your agenda this evening, the discussion of Home Occupations and Temporary Uses in the residential (R-1) Zone.

The residents of Olive Avenue and the surrounding streets have been enduring the business activities conducted by the Brandstaters at 89 Olive Ave (The Lavender Marketplace, Workshops and Event Venue) for more than seven years (established in 2015 according to their website). These activities are in violation of City Home Occupation and R-1 Zoning codes (See below). This business is the equivalent of having The Creative Arts Group and the former Four Seasons Tea Room operating in a residential neighborhood. It's no different than operating a pop-up restaurant.

My family and I have lived on Olive Avenue for more than 30 years. It has always been a family friendly street with children playing and riding bikes in the street after school and on weekends. Currently there are eight school age children residing on the street. Due to the activities at 89 Olive we (the parents) no longer feel safe allowing our children to play freely on the street as children have in past (including the Brandstater's children).

We are requesting that the City Council take action and have the City's existing municipal code enforced and/or amended so that the residents of Olive Avenue and surrounding streets may have their peaceful neighborhood restored. The Lavender Marketplace is a nuisance, disruptive to the quality of life of its neighbors and it is detrimental to the character of the community.

Best regards,
Anthony Sweeney

ZONING R1 (Residential)
17.20.020 - Permitted uses.
No person shall use, nor shall any property owner permit the use of any property or lot located in any R-1 zone for any use other than the following:

One-family dwellings of a permanent character; not more than one per lot (except for second units in compliance with Chapter 17.22); placed in a permanent location, containing not more than one kitchen; used by but one family; and **not used for commercial purposes other than home occupations.**

17.85.040 - Home Occupations

A. The use **shall not generate any pedestrian or vehicular traffic above that which is normal**, or reasonable, for the district where the home occupation is located.

E. There shall be **no generation of objectionable… noise**

F. All aspects of the home occupation shall be **conducted entirely within an enclosed structure.** Activities and other related items or actions produced or used in conjunction with the home occupation **shall not be conducted outdoors**.

H. There shall be **no on-site employment of help**, other than members of the resident family
(Each event requires the hiring of: Caterers, Party Rental Companies, Porto-Potties, Bartenders, Photographers, Florists, Planners, etc.)

Home Occupations Requirements in Other Cities, include:

"Only a resident of the dwelling unit shall be employed in the operation of a home occupation use.
No volunteers, interns or independent contractors shall be part of a home occupation permit. - **City of Pasadena, CA**

"You may only have one client/customer visit per hour between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m." - **City of Los Angeles**

"It shall not involve the use of commercial vehicles for delivery of materials to or from the premises for commercial purposes." - **City of Monrovia, CA**

Quotes from the business - Lavender Marketplace (on social media)

"We enjoy hosting special events, garden weddings and parties. It's so peaceful and beautiful and perfect for your next important event!"

"Over 55 brides and grooms have shared their special day with us and over 45 baby and bridal showers have taken place here. Not to mention all the birthday parties, dinner parties, engagement shoots, fashion shoots and more!"

From: Laura Aguilar
To: Kelly Kriebs
Cc: Amber Tardif
Subject: Re: Lavendar Marketplace & Workshops
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 7:57:48 AM

Received. Thank you

Regards,

Laura M. Aguilar
Deputy City Manager

On Mar 12, 2024, at 7:49 AM, Kelly Kriebs <kkriebs@cityofsierramadre.com> wrote:

Public comment.
~ Kelly

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: March 12, 2024 at 5:38:14 AM PDT
To: Gene Goss <ggoss@cityofsierramadre.com>, Edward Garcia <egarcia@cityofsierramadre.com>, Kristine Lowe <klowe@cityofsierramadre.com>, Robert Parkhurst <rparkhurst@cityofsierramadre.com>, Kelly Kriebs <kkriebs@cityofsierramadre.com>
Subject: Lavendar Marketplace & Workshops

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Hello City Council Members,

My name is Lisha Garriola and I live at [redacted] Sierra Madre.
We are a few doors West of 89 Olive, where Lavendar Marketplace & Workshops is located.
The events at Lavendar Marketplace & Workshops do not have a negative impact on us.

Kind Regards,
Lisha Garriola

From: [redacted]
To: Public Comment
Subject: For 3/12/24 Public Comment ORDINANCE 1469 ADDING CHAPTER 8.40
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 2:38:38 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Honorable Mayor and members of the City Council,

I applaud most of this change and whomever put this forth. The smell from the gas blowers hovers on my property beyond the hour the neighbor's landscaper does his work. He is employed 2x a week.

The institution I live next to has many times violated the current code by leaf blowing and landscaping as early as 6AM. A call to the police has not worked since the workers lock the gates. The police state they cannot go onsite because of the gates. I have been told it is private property, therefore no action to stop the practice was taken. *How will this new code be enforced under these circumstances?*

I cannot agree with "never on Sunday" for residential. We have always been allowed landscaping for residential use. I have an electric mower and blower. I sweep small jobs like my steps. During the busy season my job has me working from M - Saturday. Sunday is my only day to clean up the yard to make my wife happy. Maybe you could shorten the *window of time to be about 4 hours for residential on a Sunday? Perhaps 12-4 or 1-5?*

My alternative would be to use the shop vac I vacuum our cars with on a Sunday. I need to clean up the large amount of leaves that fall on our patio from neighbor's trees each week. I look forward to seeing what is on the list of equipment.

Yours,
W. Serrano
Sierra Madre Resident