

Notice of Intent to Circulate Initiative Petition

Notice is hereby given of the intent of the persons whose names appear hereon to circulate an initiative petition within the city of Palo Alto for the purpose of defining the minimum width of private streets as 32 feet, with a limited exceptions where private streets may be 22 feet or 26 feet in minimum width, removing all private streets from being included for the purpose of defining allowed Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of buildings. A statement of the reasons of the proposed actions as contemplated in said petition is as follows:

Private streets may be as narrow as 20 feet wide with no on-street parking, violating Policies C30, L17, T23, and T25 and Programs T33 and T53 of the Comprehensive Plan. These narrow streets also can be more difficult for fire trucks and garbage trucks to traverse, and can impede responses to public safety emergencies.

Developments with 20 foot wide private streets cause serious spillover traffic and parking on adjacent neighborhood streets, and offer inadequate parking for residents and visitors within the developments, adversely impacting both the new developments and adjacent neighborhoods. Private streets, unlike public streets, may be included in lot sizes allowing larger buildings than in neighborhoods with public streets. Prohibiting inclusion of private streets in lot sizes treats all developments the same in regard to FAR, making home sizes more compatible.

Arbor Real, the former Hyatt Rickey's site, typifies these problems. The narrow streets and limited guest parking caused overflow traffic and parking onto nearby residential streets. If Arbor Real residents park in "visitor parking" spaces they get tickets. Permitted visitor parking costs \$25/month. Wider streets with adequate parking and emergency access are essential for adequate safety and functionality.

To be circulated by Bob Moss and numerous citizen volunteers.