

Shape Our Fremont

Five Things You Can Do About Housing Developments

If you are concerned about the number of housing developments in Fremont, or that some of them are too big, too tall, and too close together, then you are not alone. Instead of trying to fight the city, residents can work with the city to point out their concerns and ask for changes.

Here are five positive things you can do to help shape proposed housing developments in the coming year.

1. Get the Info

The easiest way to learn the basic information about all the housing developments being proposed throughout the city, is to go to the Shape Our Fremont website at www.ShapeOurFremont.com

This website is maintained by two independent Fremont residents who strive to provide timely, accurate, and concise information about housing developments and the development review process.

The website includes the name and address of each proposed development, the number of dwellings, height of the buildings, and other details. The name and email address of the City Staff Planner assigned to each proposal is listed as a contact to send your questions, comments, and concerns.

This website is updated frequently, and anyone can sign up for email notification of important meetings and development updates (your email address will not be shared).

2. Know the Council

Fremont has taken the first step in establishing a district-based City Council where each Councilmember is elected from a specific geographic district. Elections for Districts 1 through 4 were held last November, and those Councilmembers are now in office. Elections for Districts 5 and 6 will be held in 2020. Until then, two of the current Councilmembers will continue to serve at-large.

One way to get to know the Councilmembers is to introduce yourself, tell them where you live, and express your concerns about housing in Fremont -- or any other topic. Email addresses for the Mayor and all six Councilmembers appear on the Shape Our Fremont website.

3. Attend a Meeting

All Planning Commission and City Council meetings are open to the public. Anyone may sit in the audience and listen to the meeting. If you have a concern about a specific development on the agenda, you may also speak at the designated time. Speaking time may be limited depending on how many people want to speak.

The Planning Commission meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7 p.m. The City Council meets on the first, second, and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. All meetings are held in the City Council Chambers at 3300 Capitol Avenue.

4. Talk to Others

There are usually other residents who share your concerns about housing developments -- especially if one is going to affect your neighborhood, your local schools, or traffic on your local streets. You probably already know some of these people.

Talk to your neighbors or engage them on social media. Also use your contacts through school groups, Home Owners Associations, or other organizations.

5. Focus on Specifics

If you find a proposed development that concerns you, try to focus on specific points. Think about how the development would fit with the surrounding area. The more specific you can be, the easier it would be for the city staff to address the concerns with the developer.

Some common concerns in the past have been the impact on parking, traffic, and schools. In single-family residential neighborhoods, the character of the neighborhood is an important concern. That might include considerations of height, floor area, architecture, and landscaping. Not all concerns may apply in every case, but it's worth mentioning them.

Send your comments, questions, and concerns directly to the City Staff Planner assigned to the development proposal. Encourage others to do likewise. The assigned planner will ensure that all public correspondence is sent to the Planning Commission and/or City Council as part of the final presentation.

Finally, be prepared to stay involved and follow up. The review process for each development proposal can go on for a year or more. Contact the City Staff Planner periodically for the latest project status.

For the latest information about all proposed residential development proposals, go to **www.ShapeOurFremont.com**