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Housing crisis input abounds

Nonprofits, renters, property owners brainstorm solutions in San Mateo

By **Samantha Weigel**
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

In an attempt to address the affordable housing crisis that has renters pleading for help and property owners afraid of infringement upon their property rights, San Mateo City Hall drew hundreds of people Monday night as the council seeks to cope with the impacts of the region's economic boom.

Approached by numerous residents being evicted from their homes with few options that would allow them to remain in the Bay Area, the City Council held a study session seeking input from stakeholders on all both sides of the spectrum.



Larry Patterson

After listening to nearly a dozen representatives from Realtors associations to nonprofit housing developers, as well as another 50 individuals, the council opted to form an ad hoc committee comprised of industry representatives to advise future policy decisions. City Manager Larry Patterson will appoint members who will return to the council in the coming months with suggestions.

"I'm extremely alarmed about the dis-

placement of our San Mateo citizens as the regional housing shortage continues to drive up rents beyond the means of our working families and seniors," Mayor Maureen Freschet said. "We can all become better informed by listening to industry leaders and subject matter experts in an effort to identify comprehensive action."

There was a range of suggestions, some controversial and some more palatable to those who flooded the halls and watched the meeting from packed conference rooms. Ultimately all agreed developing more housing is needed to offset the influx of high-paying jobs.

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SAMANTHA WEIGEL/DAILY JOURNAL

Hundreds of people flooded San Mateo's City Hall as the council discussed means to address the affordable housing crisis. Members of the San Mateo County Association of Realtors wore 'Save the Dream' stickers while tenants seeking protection from evictions wore black T-shirts.

POPE FRANCIS ARRIVES IN U.S.



REUTERS (LEFT) SAMANTHA WEIGEL/DAILY JOURNAL Pope Francis arrived Tuesday on the first visit of his life to the United States, bringing his 'church of the poor' to the world's wealthiest superpower and a country polarized over issues closest to his heart: immigration, social injustice and economic inequality. According a rare honor to the pontiff, President Barack Obama and his wife and daughters welcomed Francis at the bottom of the stairs on the red-carpeted tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland after the pope's chartered plane touched down from Cuba. Presidents usually make important visitors come to them at the White House. **Above:** Rev. Kristi Denham and Margaret Cross light candles at the Congregational Church of Belmont during a prayer vigil and meditation celebrating the arrival of Pope Francis in the United States. **SEE STORY PAGE 8**

City studies affordable housing impact fee

Redwood City Council could approve it for commercial developments in October

DAILY JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Redwood City Council has initiated a process that could charge developers impact fees for doing business in the city.

In March, the council gave staff direction to adopt an affordable housing impact fee and commercial linkage fee

to ensure that future development projects reduce their impact on the need for affordable housing in Redwood City.

The council may consider adoption of the fee as soon as October.

To analyze the city's potential to adopt the fees, Redwood City has been participating in the preparation of a nexus study and feasibility study through the

countywide 21 Elements collaboration project.

City staff received the nexus study and feasibility study this month, according to a report to council by Principal Planner Diana O'Dell.

In some cases, the city may apply the

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Council considers short-term home rental oversight

South San Francisco officials examines home sharing policy

By **Austin Walsh**
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

South San Francisco officials are closing in on finalizing a new policy which will require residents to pay a fee before renting their homes on Airbnb or other similar short-term vacation rental websites.

The South San Francisco City Council will meet Wednesday, Sept. 23, to consider imposing regulations on the home sharing industry, which would ask those who use the sites to pay a business license fee, as well as additional taxes, when renting their living quarters.

As sites such as Airbnb, VRBO, Homekey and others become increasingly popular, officials claim it is due time to

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Apologies given for Farm Hill Boulevard pilot flop

Program to reduce speed on busy thoroughfare may end early; City Council complains about nasty emails

By **Bill Silverfarb**
DAILY JOURNAL STAFF

Despite many on the Redwood City Council apologizing for the increased congestion on Farm Hill Boulevard since the thoroughfare was restriped for safety reasons, the pilot program will continue until at least October.

"This isn't what we planned. I'm not afraid to say we

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