

## Vandervort, Kathy

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**From:** floatingrock [floatingrock@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010 12:13 PM  
**To:** Vandervort, Kathy  
**Subject:** K. Vandervort please enter into record for 7/26/10 city council meeting our opposition to BID renewal.Thank-you.

\*We, as Dayton St. property owners and residents, request this email be entered into the record of Pasadena City Council 7/26/10 minutes to voice our opposition to the renewal of OPMD property based business improvement district .\* We ask the council designate a separate category for ground floor owner occupied single family residences (apart from condos which pay significantly less then we do and have ground floor businesses) thus allowing reinstatement of our residential exemption (as discussed with Cynthia Kurtz 9/6/05) and as was recommended for extension by the engineers report read by Robin Harris

6/20/05 when the BID was last before council.. The law allows for exempt categories such as those created for the first five years of the BID:

one for all residential properties and one for the business properties at One Colorado. Reinstating an exempt category recognizing those who do not receive any benefits from the OPMD would allow developers and businessmen to have their BID without taxing us disproportionately. Our 2009 assessment was \$1099.92. My husband is 80 years old and a \_retired\_ professor. It is inappropriate for city employees to casually tell him to sell a few paintings to pay for our tripled property taxes when we speak in opposition to the BID or as recently when we were caught in a quagmire of various city departments for seven months attempting to complete a solar installation for our home and faced with unexpected costs. (The suggestion is especially heinous when BID funds are being spent to fund "strategic planning retreats for the Board of Directors" at undisclosed locations.) Unlike OPMD businessmen and developers, our request for appointments with our city council representative and the city manager were denied. The Francisca, the first building built by an African American businessman in Pasadena, was saved from the wrecking ball by my husband. Our interests are in preserving neighborhood history, aesthetics, and protecting the environment - OPMD supports the interests of businesses and developers. A school torn down, 118 trees removed, historic Dearth house cut in half and removed so an Irvine developer (on OPMD board) can build 820 units. "Improvements for the Westgate Project" are damaging to us and our historic 1923 brick building - dust, trucks, our sidewalk jackhammered out and living with the noise and vibrations from FairOaks traffic across a trench scheduled for completion 11/15/09 but not filled in until 5/24/10! There was a fenced yard across Central Alley from the Baptist Church- its now a Unified parking lot - no more trees or grass. Less shade, more traffic, much more difficult street parking and access to our driveway, high density development, more noise, amplified music, garbage, rats, worsening air quality- smokers cluster in front of our building and in Baker Alley (since we are not a business we can not post no smoking signs and sidewalks across the street are monopolized by dining tables) exacerbated by the frequency of firehouse calls which continue to escalate staining the side of our building with diesel fumes from firehouse traffic. (No progress has been made towards the widening of Baker as recommended by Public Works from 15' to 20' when the station was built.) The station gets a new air filtration system but the sole tree planted 19 years ago when the station was built is cut down, I'm told by the firemen, because of rat infestation. Now we get to breathe the exhaust spewed out at us when vehicles are both inside and outside of the station. To top it off, public works drove the wrong way in Baker Alley and blocked our driveway with its mulcher/shredder refusing to move so I could not enter my driveway until they were finished grinding up the tree. The police records OPMD used as part of their justification for the BID were not provided for us by Robert Montano (as he promised) or when requested at the police department. Late night businesses mean late night car alarms, vandalism and the vast assortment of crimes which insobriety invites. There's been no progress in deterring wrong way traffic in Baker Alley.

Property values are down. The increase in noise from Station 31 sirens and chainsaws resulting from all the new high density developments and late night businesses in our area alone provides more than enough reason to justify special consideration of our request for the creation of a special category allowing us exemption from BID assessment. We cannot open our windows because the air quality and noise is unhealthy. Please examine how OPMD policy has damaged our quality of life and help us by at the very least reinstating our exemption from a BID assessment. We receive no benefit from OPMD.

Sincerely,

Elise Doyle & Walter Askin  
24 W Dayton St.