

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Erika Foy ·
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 7:12 AM
To: City_Council; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Thyret, Pam
Subject: City Council Agenda Item 10 – 2000 E. Colorado Boulevard

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The Honorable Victor Gordo, Mayor
Members of the Pasadena City Council
City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: City Council Agenda Item 10 – Bond Financing for 2000 E. Colorado Boulevard

Dear Mayor Gordo and City Councilmembers,

I am writing regarding Item 10 on tonight's agenda, which asks the City Council to approve up to \$42 million in tax-exempt bond financing for the proposed development at 2000 E. Colorado Boulevard.

I have a question that I hope Council will consider before taking this vote. Why are we approving financing for a building that has not yet completed its review before the Design Commission?

I watched this project come before the Design Commission in August, and I was encouraged to hear commissioners raising many of the same concerns residents have been expressing about the quality of housing being built in Pasadena.

The plans proposed 144 apartments with only 6,383 square feet of common open space, compared with the 35,525 square feet ordinarily required. The building would also be approximately 78 feet tall where the underlying zoning allows 39 feet, with just 64 parking spaces for 144 apartments.

These departures are significant. The City's own planning staff identified design issues involving building mass, compatibility with neighboring properties, street-level design, and the need for attractive, usable outdoor spaces. Commissioners also questioned the quality of life these apartments would offer, including concerns about natural light, small living spaces, and the limited opportunities for residents and children to enjoy the outdoors.

These are not insignificant design details. They affect the daily lives of the people who will eventually call this building home.

Residents also submitted public comments raising concerns about parking, neighborhood compatibility, and the direction of development along East Colorado Boulevard. I was among those who questioned whether the parking assumptions were supported by actual data. While some letters supported the project, the concerns raised deserve consideration. I wonder how much of that discussion, or the Design Commission's concerns, has been shared with Council before tonight's vote.

Now, less than two months later, Council is being asked to help facilitate financing for the project, yet I cannot find evidence that it has returned to the Design Commission for formal approval or that the concerns raised in August have been resolved.

I understand that Pasadena is not financially responsible for repaying these bonds and that tonight's approval is separate from design approval. But the resolution still asks Council to determine that facilitating this financing serves the public interest. Shouldn't the quality of what we are building be part of that consideration?

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I have also learned that other California cities have considered housing bond financing after projects received their planning approvals. Why are we taking this step before the design review is complete? Is there a financing deadline that requires action tonight, or could Council wait until the Design Commission has finished its work?

I ask Council to continue this item until staff can explain the timing, the status of the design review, what authority the City still has to address the concerns raised in August, and whether those concerns have been communicated to Council.

Pasadena has spent decades protecting its architectural character and the quality of its neighborhoods. We have a Design Commission for a reason. What is the point of asking commissioners to carefully evaluate projects if we move ahead with financing before we even know how their concerns will be addressed?

I don't expect every new apartment building to look like old Pasadena. But I do expect new development to reflect the thoughtfulness, character, and attention to quality that have made Pasadena special. That includes considering the people who will eventually live in these apartments, not simply how many units can be built.

I hope Council will take a moment tonight to ask whether we are doing this in the right order.

Sincerely,

Erika Foy

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: p brown <pbrown@cityofcolorado.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 4:14 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Comment: 10/13 City Council Meeting - Agenda Item 10 - SUPPORT

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Dear Hon. Mayor Gordo and Council Members:

I write in support of Agenda Item 10, a Resolution to approve a plan of finance including the issuance of exempt facility bonds by the California Municipal Finance Authority for the residential rental project located at 2000-2030 East Colorado Boulevard and 25 South San Marino Avenue.

This is an important project for a 143 rental unit 100% affordable housing along East Colorado Blvd in a part of the City that needs more multifamily housing, including to boost neighborhood vitality. The project is located within one half mile of a major transit stop (the Allen A Line station).

The new development will bring in new residents and families, boosting businesses in the area and likely bringing new children into the PUSD system - the schools that serve the address are significantly under-capacity.

Approving the Resolution would be an important step toward moving forward. The City should be doing everything possible to facilitate this project - including fast-tracking or removing bureaucratic requirements.

Thank you for your service and for your consideration.

Respectfully,

P.A. Brown
District 6

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McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Thomas Tai
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 4:21 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Item Number 10 - 2000 E Colorado Blvd Project

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Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I urge the council to approve the bond financing for 2000 Colorado Blvd without delay.

Pasadena is experiencing a massive housing crisis, with average rent prices for a one bedroom apartment exceeding \$2000. Today, I conducted a search on Zillow for apartments listed for rent. There were just 119 listings available for apartments below \$2000 per month in a city of almost 140,000 residents. This is a painful reminder that we have utterly fallen behind in ensuring affordable housing for all.

Please do not listen to NIMBYs who wish to delay this project. We do not have the luxury of curating this city like a museum. Pasadenans might be one missed paycheck away from homelessness. I refuse to allow our city to be turned into a lavishly decorated nursing home and museum, in which young families and people who are not rich have no place to live and no place to start building their Pasadena story.

Affordable housing often relies on multiple streams of financing to be viable. We must not impede this project based on minor issues of design and aesthetics. We are entitled to our opinions on architecture, but leadership demands prioritizing imminent material needs instead of trying to please everyone.

Follow the city staff recommendation and let housing happen.

Sincerely,
Thomas Tai

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