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June 5, 2019

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF BURLINGAME

City of Burlingame
501 Primrose Road
Burlingame, CA 94010

Re: Appeal of siding decision for 25 Arundel Road home renovation

Dear City Official,

I am writing to appeal a ruling made by the Planning Commission ("the Commission") during the May 28th commission meeting. During the meeting a decision was made to not allow us to use fiber cement siding and corner edging for the renovation work we are completing at our 1929 house in Lyon Hoag. The decision we feel lacked sufficient basis and will result in us having to procure wood siding which we feel is not as durable as the fiber cement product we prefer, not as environmentally friendly, requires more maintenance (wood requires frequent repainting over the long term versus fiber cement) and, most importantly, not as safe as the fiber cement product (wood is more flammable). The Commission cited the lack of corner edges on homes in and around our neighborhood when, in fact, the opposite is true as many homes on our street and around the neighborhood do have corner edges to which there is sufficient evidence of. (The fiber cement siding requires the use of corner edges especially for houses as old as the one we own (1929) and where mitered corners are more difficult to implement and may be compromised over time given the age of the house) It is for the very reason of ensuring our house will fit into the neighborhood that drove our decision to use the fiber cement siding (w/corner edges) that we selected and have since procured. We have been aware of the revisions necessary to our original plans which calls for wood but between seeing existing and new homes with similar siding/edges approved and being informed that the change to fiber cement siding should not be controversial, we went ahead and procured the fiber cement siding but did not install it. The Commission's decision to not allow the use of fiber cement siding (w/corner edges) seemed to be based purely on one commission member's personal opinion and their citing of inaccurate facts about homes in our neighborhood. It also seems inconsistent with what has been recently approved and constructed within our neighborhood. It is for these reasons why we are seeking an appeal.

We will not be available for the July 1st hearing because we have plans to be out of town that entire week. We would like to be included in the August 19th hearing. Furthermore, once the hearing date is set, we will prepare supporting information for our appeal.

Thank you,

Channing F. Chen

Owner, 25 Arundel Road - Burlingame