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RON SMITH

Lancaster City Council

CITY OF LANCASTER WANTS YOUR INPUT

Ron Smith
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On Wednesday, October 19th, I was once again privileged to participate in a meeting with residents and urban designers concerning a future area of the city that will be developed. We worked together with the people of the community on a vision for their neighborhood. About six months ago, I was able to be part of a similar meeting concerning a different location in the city.

The purpose of these forums is to ask you, the citizens, what your needs and desires are as we build our city. I was able to talk to many of the people that participated in these meetings, and every one of them expressed that they came away with a positive feeling; their voice was heard and they had a vital part in the future vision of their hometown.

I am proud of our city and the contributions our citizens have made. Many of us have the same desire: to enhance the quality of life in our city and create a nice place to live and raise our families. To obtain this we need a vision for the future—A vision formed from the collective ideas of this diverse community.

This year the city council approved my plan to create a citizens committee for art and architectural design that will formulate a vision for the look of our city. This committee has been working hard to set standards that will guide development for years to come.

But the participation does not stop there: we need your input. The City of Lancaster is beginning the process of updating its General Plan. A city's general plan is the controlling document that all projects must adhere to. It not only sets the pattern for land use, but also charts the course for economic development, public safety, transportation, the environment, and our cultural and recreational needs.

Every project that comes to the planning commission is looked at through the eyes of the General Plan. What direction do you want the city to take, and what do you want the city to be for your children when they are grown?

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Continued

Every citizen that I have had the opportunity to talk with has the same question: when are we going to get more retail and restaurants? This past year the planning commission has approved numerous plans that will bring more choices of shopping and dining to the city.

Two of these projects are the ones that I have previously mentioned as part of the community meetings: the 150 acre Armagosa Creek project at 10th Street West and Avenue K-8, and the Lowtree Specific plan on 15th Street West, across from the Antelope Valley Hospital.

In the very near future, the Lancaster Spectrum at 20th Street West and Avenue J-8 will be built. This will provide 125,000 sq ft of retail space, six pads for restaurants and four separate retail buildings.

The South East corner of 10th Street West and Avenue L will provide 4 restaurants and 8 to 12 stores. And up the street at the Lowe's Center we approved four sites for restaurants. Also, the Wal-Mart locations on the Eastside and Westside of the city will soon have additional stores and dining.

What do you want for dining and shopping? I want to know. Not everyone can make it to a city council or commission meeting, but I urge every citizen of Lancaster that has a concern about the planning and growth of our city to contact me at rdsmith@cityoflancasterca.org. Together we can create a great future for our city.

Ron Smith is the Chairman of the Planning Commission for the City of Lancaster

