

Mayor Lawyer Updated

From: Qin Gao (qin.gao@gmail.com)

To: ppxue2003@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2019, 09:03 AM PDT

Dear Mayor Paula Perotte,

My husband and I met with you on Wed, Aug 7th, regarding the construction of my neighbor's house. During our meeting, I thought you were very respectful and understood our concerns regarding the construction. I want to make it clear that we are not against my neighbor wanting to build a second floor. All we want is to ensure that our neighbors home is not too close to our house so that we can preserve our privacy and our beautiful view. I was under the impression during our meeting that City of Goleta was going to set up a meeting with the architect so that we can see the plans, see how far our neighbor was going to expand their home from our property line, and come to a compromise regarding the construction of my neighbor's home.

When I went to City of Goleta on Monday, Aug 12th, I was informed there was no such meeting, I cannot see the construction plans, and that the construction has been approved. I was informed to talk to my neighbor, but I am not sure what that would accomplish. I had already tried talking to my neighbor and they informed me to talk to City of Goleta since they were the ones who had approved the construction. All we ask is to see the plans and to ensure that the house is not built too close to our home. As stated previously, my neighbor has already expanded their home by 7.5 ft from the property line on the side of the house and now they plan to expand more. If you actually came and evaluated the distance from my neighbors home to my home on the sides, I believe it would not be compliant with the zoning laws.

Honestly, I am not sure what to think anymore. What was informed to me on Monday by the City of Goleta was NOT what we had discussed during the Wed meeting. I really want to trust in fairness and the laws that make our city great, but after Monday, I feel I was tricked, cheated, and lied too.

My family and I don't want much. All we want is to preserve the privacy of our home. Is that so much to ask?

Pei-Pei Xue

My name is Pei-Pei Xue and I live at 6217 Momouth Ave in Goleta. I am writing regarding a construction issue that was approved by City of Goleta. My neighbor will be doing construction to their home that affects my property and privacy. I was informed a letter was mailed to my home, but I never received a letter or any notification regarding the construction. Why I am concerned is because a few years ago, my neighbor already expanded their home by 7.5 ft. Prior to the first construction, my garage to my neighbor's fence was 7.5 ft. My master bedroom to the fence was 15 ft. Since they expanded their bedroom by 7.5 ft during the first construction, it is now 7.5 ft away from the fence. Since their home was originally one floor, the fence had provided some privacy between our bedrooms. However, now they want to expand their house even more and build a second floor, which over looks the fence, and now impends on our privacy.

I had met with Mayor Paula Perotte regarding this issue. I was informed that City of Goleta had not completed the approval of the construction and I was to meet with the architecture to go over the plans so that we can come to a compromise. When I had gone to City of Goleta on Monday, 8/12/19, I was informed that there was no meeting, that construction was approved, and no changes will be made. I was not even given the opportunity to see the plans for the construction so I don't even know how much my neighbor will be expanding their home. Based on the zoning laws in Goleta, my understanding is that houses should be no more than 5-10 ft from the property line on the sides of the house. If they actually evaluated the distance from my neighbors home to my home on the sides, I am surprise it passed the zoning laws.

This is unfair and unjust because 1) my family and I were never notified or present during the voting, 2) we were informed that we were able to meet with the architecture to evaluate the plan and come to a compromise but only to be lied too and turned away, 3) the construction is questionable in terms of compliant with the Goleta zoning laws, and 4) no longer have any privacy or a beautiful view from my home if construction proceeds.

I am not sure at this point what I can do on my own. Would it be possible to meet with a lawyer to see what are my options and how to take actions to stop the construction? If so, would it be possible to have a Chinese translator present? My English is not very good and will need help to communicate my concern regarding the construction.