

Frank Hagan: We need new leadership on City Council

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I grew up in Boulder and like all my friends I say, "Why is this happening to Boulder?" We all feel and see the shift from a town which valued slow sustainable growth to an extreme growth policy which has damaged the soul of our town. I was even a developer! My business partner Yolanda Gonzalez and I developed the southwest corner of Ninth and Pearl. It is a prime example of good development. We worked with Wolf/Lyon Architects to preserve the original 1880 building on the corner, designed a courtyard that wraps from Pearl around to Ninth Street that's full of flowers and benches and constructed a new mixed-use building that's within the height restrictions. We also put effort into the storefront design to ensure it related to original Boulder architecture.

The city leaders at the time also understood the importance of slow, sustainable growth. Now the majority of new developments downtown lack basic design integrity, are above the height limit, lack usable open space and have no relation to the historic charm of downtown Boulder. Our current city government not only approves these projects but encourages more rapid growth. The upcoming City Council election is an opportunity and perhaps our last chance to preserve the elements that make Boulder so special. Restore and enforce the height limits. Maintain and add to our open space. Slow down and examine if we really want Boulder to become a city of 200,000! For these reasons I endorse Together4Boulder's five candidates, Cindy Carlisle, John Gerstle, Mirabai Nagel, Sam Weaver and Mary Young. We need *new* leadership on our City Council or we will forever lose what makes Boulder such a special place.

Frank Hagan

Boulder

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