

Stay Sacramento

STOP ARDEN ARCADE CITYHOOD

www.stopardenarcadecityhood.org

Commentary submitted to
the Sacramento Bee and
Inside Arden.

By Michal Duvencek
Chair for Stop Arden Arcade Cityhood

The hot topic playing beneath many citizens' radar is the proposed Arden-Arcade cityhood, part of the "Uncity". The passion behind this drive comes from years of community frustration with our county government. I know. I served our community on the Sacramento County Children's Commission for six years; the Arden Park and Recreation District Board for six years and the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Board of Directors for four years. I understand the difficulties ahead. As a result of these frustrations and inaction, the communities of Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights and Elk Grove chose to create their own cities. Now the Arden-Arcade area is moving ahead to try to create another new city within Sacramento County. In the case of Arden-Arcade, I believe it is an ill-conceived proposal which will not have the outcomes the leaders of this drive expect.

My concern is another layer of government the answer? Does anyone in his/her right mind believe that creating another local government and a new spawning ground for politicians is the answer? I believe it is time for existing politicians to be held accountable and responsible for their actions. Like other areas, Arden-Arcade has had problems with its water and fire districts running amok. Will the creation of another local government provide the necessary oversight? More politicians and more government is not the answer. Better government making better decisions is the answer.

My second concern is one of the financial well-being of Arden-Arcade. The proposed new city's financial package is primarily based on revenues received from businesses located on the Fulton Avenue corridor. As profitable and as sizeable as these revenues are to the current county budget, there is no guarantee it will remain that way. In fact, more businesses may relocate as a result of Arden-Arcade becoming its' own city. With the current tax design, local jurisdictions compete with each other to lure away lucrative businesses to their area. This pits local governments against each other which becomes a self-serving mode. Wouldn't the money be better spent to enhance services to Arden-Arcade rather than creating another layer of divided regional government?

Lastly I think a large number of voters in Arden-Arcade hold a silent skepticism about rushing to make this area another separate city. Because of this skepticism and doubt, taxpayers along the American River have been excluded from the boundaries of the proposed new city by the leaders of this effort. Additionally, because of this silent concern, the cityhood committee of petitioners dropped their efforts and hired a professional firm to gather the cityhood signatures.

It is time for us, as citizens to speak up and take control of our future and the future of our children and grandchildren. I greatly respect the leaders of the cityhood effort and I know their hearts are in the right place. However, I respectfully believe the future of Arden-Arcade would be better served if the citizen voters got out there and demanded the current structure of government that we have and the officials we have elected to attend to their jobs. It is not about more government; it is about us not expecting others to do our heavy lifting for us. It is about being responsible to ensure that our current government represents us; be it at the local level or any other level of government.

We the people are the government. Our elected officials are our employees. We pay their salaries. They work for us. Hold their feet to the fire or fire them! I invite you to join me in improving our neighborhoods without adding another layer of costly government. Let your voice be heard and say no to Cityhood and yes to better services. Contact me at staysacramento@gmail.com or call