

Drive south and learn

December 20, 2014

Congratulations to the City Council on the approval of Fresno's new general plan. Sadly, Council Members Steve Brandau and Clint Olivier do not share the vision.

Mr. Brandau's lack of support is somewhat understandable since the area he represents, District 2, includes areas of the incorporated city that are still undeveloped. But I was totally floored by Mr. Olivier's vote since District 7 is an area that includes many of the neighborhoods with the most to gain from this plan. In a city of over a half million people, it is essential that we invest in our older neighborhoods, and stop the uncontrolled sprawl and urban blight.

Armed with a straw broom, Esther, an older Mexican woman daily sweeps our street and encourages residents to keep our neighborhood clean, safe and viable in spite of neglect by City Hall. The many Esthers around Fresno need and deserve support. I invite those against this plan to drive around the older neighborhoods, look beyond the deterioration and experience the mature landscaping, large lots and pride in ownership. Then try to find available services without a long drive north on Freeway 41.

Julio Mastro

Fresno

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