

Walnut City Council implements task force for proposed parking structure



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The Walnut City Council held a meeting Wednesday night in an attempt to develop a community task force regarding the proposed parking structure planned to be built on campus and near homes of the Timberline Community.

In 2008, Measure RR was approved by Walnut residents granting \$353 million to Mt. SAC for renovation, educational, public safety, and job training purposes including, “upgrade, repair, equip, and replace; infrastructure, classrooms, science and computer laboratories, the library, instructional facilities, and improve disabled access on campus. Upgrade streets, intersections, and parking capacity to improve traffic flow and prevent traffic congestion,” according to the measure.

Since the announcement of the projected parking structure, members of the Timberline Community have opposed the idea and have pressured Walnut City Council members to develop a task force. The purpose of the task force would be to withdraw the probability of the parking structure from being constructed.

Proposed scenarios for the task force are to either appoint 10 members from the community; two from city council and two individuals from the dais, making up 12 members in all.

Option two would appoint five members from the community, one from the City Council and two from the dais, making up 12 members.

The final option would appoint five or 10 members from the community; one or two individuals from the city council and no members from the dais. Making up five to 10 members composed of members from the community.

While the council was in session, Walnut City Councilwoman Mary Su said that a lot of students are being “misinformed” about the parking development and added that Mt. SAC President and CEO Dr. Bill Scroggins is using the students from the journalism department to write articles about the parking structure that are “one sided.” She added that “it is time to let them know what is the truth” behind the parking structure controversy.

Councilwoman Su however is wrong in her declaration that Dr. Scroggins in “using” the Mt. SAC journalism department to distribute misinformation. In reality however, the Mt. SAC journalism department, news site, and magazine work independently of the college. SAC.Media, formally Mountiewire, is staffed by students who do not work in relation with MtSAC.edu or the college as a whole.

The student media are First Amendment publications and are all student run. It is the duty of the student journalists to report ethically and accurately on any news involving the campus, faculty,

staff and issues in the community that directly affect students. Contrary to Su's statement, as journalists, it is imperative that reporting stories reflects journalistic ethics.

The student media reached out to Councilwoman Su for comment regarding her statements, however she has not returned our calls or emails regarding the matter at the time of publication.

In response to Su stating that journalism students are influenced by Dr. Scroggins to report "one-sided" stories on SAC.Media. The journalism department reached out to Dr. Scroggins for comment. "The student press at Mt. SAC have a First Amendment right to report, analyze, and express their opinions on the news they see fit. I am 100 percent supportive of our student media and their freedom under the United States Constitution to express their opinions as they see them. The college would never, and I personally will never seek to influence or direct the student press in any way what so ever."

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