

**Carmel-  
by-the-Sea**

Nova Romero &lt;nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us&gt;

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## Addresses

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**Shana Walker** <[REDACTED]>  
To: cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us  
Cc: Cheryl Lipshutz Lerdal <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Feb 25, 2025 at 4:54 PM

My husband and I have owned a home here for 13 years. We've been full-time residents for almost 3 years. There is not enough room in this email to list all the ways that we have been inconvenienced by the lack of a verifiable address. I'll list just a few of them: Applying for a real ID at the DMV was a nightmare for my husband. So was applying for Medicare. Having anything delivered. Ordering anything online. Registering for a service. Ordering fiber optic internet (impossible ). Having strangers ring your doorbell at all hours, looking for a home to deliver a pizza, a sofa or meals on wheels. One time the Carmel police came to our house responding to a call that was not us. I'm a Heart Transplant recipient. I am afraid to have my medications sent to my home by mail. The lack of address is an unacceptable risk to me and it is unfathomable in the year 2025.

Thank you

Shana Walker

Sent from my iPad



**Carmel-  
by-the-Sea**

Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>

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## Message for Strategic Priorities Workshop -- Addresses as HIGH priority

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**Maria Ruess** [REDACTED] >

Wed, Feb 26, 2025 at 2:49 PM

To: Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>, cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us

Cc: Maria Ruess [REDACTED] >

Hi Nova,

Please send the following message to the Mayor and City Council members in preparation for tomorrow's Strategic Priorities Workshop.

Thank you,  
Maria

Maria E. Rengifo-Ruess (*she/her/hers*)  
[REDACTED]

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Esteemed Mayor & City Council Members,

This is a request to keep the need for Addresses in Carmel-by-the-Sea as a HIGH priority. The city has to follow the USPS AMS guidelines for conforming addresses.

Not having addresses is a health and safety issue as it can delay response times for first responders such as fire or police in response to a 911 call. Delays can have significant negative impact on outcomes and the city may incur liability as an entity that can implement addresses but has not.

This could be more property damage caused by not putting a fire out when it was small, loss of life in the precious moments lost due to a later administration of first aid or later arrival time at a hospital, or a more severe outcome (property or person) as part of a crime. Time matters in emergency response and simple addresses (number and street name) will facilitate quick reaction and minimize response time. Inaction or delay in assigning addresses constitutes a decision to delay emergency response times and compromise health and safety in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

It is a simple action. It is a HIGH priority.

Thank you,  
Maria E. Rengifo-Ruess  
[REDACTED]

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**Carmel-  
by-the-Sea**

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## Street Addresses for Carmel

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**Rick Walker** [REDACTED] >

Wed, Feb 26, 2025 at 9:38 AM

To: cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us

Cc: "Richard S. Walker" [REDACTED]

I am writing to urge Carmel-by-the-Sea's City Council to maintain the issue of street addresses as a high priority item.

I have owned a home in Carmel for 13 years and have now been a full time resident for 3 years.

In my opinion the lack of numerical street addresses is both a public safety hazard as well as a major inconvenience when it comes to conducting personal business.

Two examples:

(1) Several years ago Carmel Police rang my doorbell at 10pm on a Sunday night asking if my alarm had gone off by accident. I don't have an alarm and officers were on the wrong block ! This was not a life or death situation - but what if it had been !

(2) The added difficulty of fulfilling public registrations, obtaining drivers licenses and purchasing goods and services without a street number is simply not worth any added "charm" that may come from our current system of descriptive coordinates. Most recently I had to have an IRS Form 1099 sent to a friend with a county street address because the system that generates the 1099 will not accommodate PO Boxes. As you know, this is a common system limitation.

I could go on but I won't.

It is imperative for Council to maintain its High Priority on the street address issue.

Rick Walker  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**Carmel-  
by-the-Sea**

Nova Romero &lt;nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us&gt;

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**Addresses in Carmel: please distribute to council members and city staff --Thank you.**

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**KC Ruess** [REDACTED]

Tue, Feb 25, 2025 at 7:35 PM

To: cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us, Nova Romero &lt;nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us&gt;, bswanson@ci.carmel.ca.us

Council Members and City Staff:

I believe the city of Carmel-by-the-Sea needs to assign regular conventional addresses to every lot (APN) in the city. These addresses must conform to the number followed by street name convention used by the USPS Address Management System, the de facto national reference database for address confirmation. An example of a conforming address would be:

[123 Ocean Ave](#)  
[Carmel, CA 93921](#)

Carmel's traditional directional addresses do not work with this database or first-responder's dispatch and response routing databases.

As you all know, I have been championing addresses here for some time.

I volunteer to assist in any way possible to make this effort happen. To that effect, I would be happy to undertake any or all of the following:

- Work with staff on laying out the address scheme for the city.
- Survey every address in the city to determine which street corner lots should be assigned to for address purposes.
- Coordinate as necessary with the County of Monterey to ensure that assigned addresses make their way into the County Assessor's database (the county subsequently informs property owners, county departments, the post office, and utilities).
- Whatever else needs to be done to assign conforming addresses.

Kevin Ruess  
[REDACTED]

**Carmel-  
by-the-Sea**

Nova Romero &lt;nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us&gt;

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## Letter in support of fast tracking street addresses for Carmel by the Sea

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**Donna Morgan** [REDACTED]

Wed, Feb 26, 2025 at 3:08 PM

To: cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us

Dear City Clerk,  
Please send this to all Council Members and the Mayor.

City Council Members and Mayor Byrne,

I am writing in support of the strategic priority of assignment of street addresses conforming to the USPS database for all properties in Carmel by the Sea.

I have owned a home here for 40 years and over five years ago became a permanent resident of the city of Carmel by the Sea. I have suffered many inconveniences and frustrations caused by the denial of property addresses to those who live within the old city limits. I have had many instances of emergency responders, service persons, utility workers not being able to find my home. Most Official Documents including government forms and legal contracts require a physical address and I have most recently been denied an account with one of the three major credit bureaus because of a lack of a usps physical address. I was put through an ordeal just to renew my passport and get a real id. In order to provide what was required I had to give them a service address that Comcast made up so their service personnel could find me ( you must present a utility bill that shows your property address and it must match the address you give them). I am unable to get timely or accurate deliveries (I receive UPS and Fed Ex packages meant for neighbors who I can't find because of the lack of addresses that make any sense). Out of town friends can't find me because of lack of a gps ( usps address based). I had surgery and was housebound for three weeks, needed round the clock nursing care for the first week. The nurses from the nurses agency could not find me. GPS put them on the other side of Carmel and I'm Monterey. As I age, this charming ( for some) feature of no street addresses becomes more and more burdensome and quite frankly dangerous.

Please don't delay this any longer fast track this priority.

Sincerely,  
Donna Morgan

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



**Carmel-  
by-the-Sea**

Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>

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## Public Comment for today's meeting

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'Colleen Logan' via cityclerk <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 7:57 AM

Reply-To: Colleen Logan [REDACTED]

To: "cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us" <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

**I am asking the City Council to prioritize enforcing compliance with state-mandated address identification requirements, as this is a legal obligation. It is not a matter for debate or ballot measures.**

**Here are the key points:**

- 1. State Code Requirements:** The California Building Code (Part 2, Section 502.1), Residential Code (Part 2.5, Section R319.1), and Fire Code (Part 9, Section 505.1) all mandate clear and visible address identification for properties. This includes:
  - Legible placement visible from the street or road.
  - Contrasting characters (Arabic numerals or alphabetical letters).
  - Minimum character size of 4 inches in height with a stroke width of at least 1/2 inch.
  - Prohibition on spelling out numbers.
- 2. Enforcement Responsibility:** The City, through the Building Official or Fire Chief, is required to enforce these provisions as part of the State Fire Code. This ensures that actual home addresses are used instead of descriptions.
- 3. Legal Context:** Local amendments that conflict with state-adopted fire and building codes are automatically overridden unless revised to align with state standards. Therefore, the City must comply with the California Code of Regulations Title 24 without exception.
- 4. City Attorney's Statement:** In September 2024, the City Attorney emphasized that compliance with Title 24 is mandatory.

**This issue is critical for public safety, emergency response efficiency, and legal compliance. The Council should focus on directing city staff to implement these requirements effectively rather than treating it as a discretionary policy matter.**

**Best regards,**

**Colleen Logan**

**Carmel-  
by-the-Sea**

Nova Romero &lt;nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us&gt;

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## Regarding Addresses in our Village - my urgent ask/soapbox!

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**Nancy Twomey** <[REDACTED]> Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 6:32 PM  
To: Dale Byrne <dbyrne@ci.carmel.ca.us>, bdelves@ci.carmel.ca.us, Hans Buder <hbuder@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Alissandra Dramov <adramov@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Jeff Baron <jbaron@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Chip Rerig <crerig@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Brandon Swanson <bswanson@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>, Emily Garay <egaray@ci.carmel.ca.us>  
Cc: Nancy Twomey <[REDACTED]>

I don't object to the possibility of the Council shifting back to taking the lead on this decision (vs putting on a ballot).

HOWEVER - I do object to handling this topic ONLY in City Council format - even if there is more than one session. I continue to believe that there are alternatives (not everyone does) to full standard addresses and everything this may mean. But I'm not hard wired on this view.

And even if we/you agree to move ahead - in reviewing the staff report from last September - I continue to have a LOT of questions that are not asked and answered yet. I also acknowledge that you can't know everything in advance - but there are still significant gaps that I believe are decision and expectations critical - for ALL STAKEHOLDERS. Should you/we move ahead with addresses - I have also considered implementation and with intended and unintended outcomes.

Bottomline - in a discussion format these items can be explored. In a 3 minute sound bite - this is NOT possible. PLEASE let's explore this project in a conversational format.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Nancy Ann Twomey**  
**Carmel-by-the-Sea Resident**  
[REDACTED]



**Carmel-  
by-the-Sea**

Nova Romero <nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us>

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## CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - WORKSHOP 2/27/25

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Susan Bjerre <[REDACTED]>  
To: "cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us" <cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us>

Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 1:06 AM

Dear Ms. Romero,

Please pass this message along to the Mayor and all City Councilmembers. Thanks very much.

Yours,

Susan Bjerre  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Byrne and Carmel-by-the-Sea City Councilmembers,

I implore you to retain Street Addresses as a High Priority item to be pursued by you and City staff. This topic has been discussed widely and intensively for a number of years. Whether you instruct staff to start the formal process to assign addresses immediately or require another round of public discussions, please do not delay. The lack of addresses recognized by online databases is a critical quality of life issue that should be dealt with this year.

- The public safety issues raised by the lack of addresses go beyond police and fire; the timely delivery of medical equipment and medicines can also be critical.
- You know the difficulty of complying with government mandates to provide a physical address. You also know that communicating with utilities, service providers, and vendors takes hours, and people often resort to using the address of a friend in Monterey or Pacific Grove or even creating a fake address.\*
- This is real time that we waste, which has a real effect on people's finances and quality of life. Businesses have to pay extra for delivery of equipment, just because we don't have recognized addresses. Some products (such as Real Good Fish) can't be delivered to our homes.
- The increasing prevalence of artificial intelligence in our daily lives will only exacerbate the difficulties of life without addresses.



The counter-argument is that the charm of Carmel-by-the-Sea depends upon our idiosyncrasies. I do like that we're a little quirky, but I honestly cannot believe the city would be any less charming if we had addresses. Why is an address like "7 S of 10th" more charming than a number like 17? I'm confident people will love our village just as much even if we shorten our addresses.

There have been unsubstantiated claims that our post office would close. However, City staff has received assurances in writing that assigning addresses will not lead to closing the post office. I certainly hope that it doesn't close—I treasure our post office and am happy to pick up my mail there. If necessary, I imagine City staff can research this further.

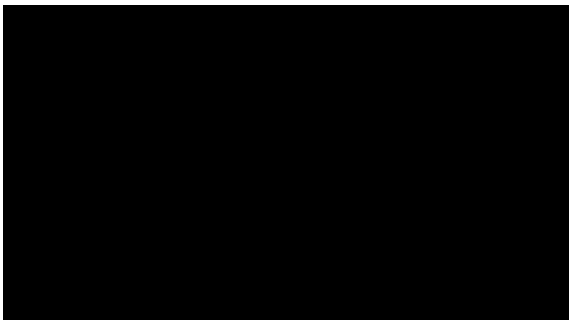
Since Staff has already researched the impact on our post office and the logistics of assigning addresses most of the work has already been done. It wouldn't require excessive staff time to finally implement a system.

Please don't waste the investment of staff time and resources—press on to complete the task of providing addresses to residents, businesses, and other property owners.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Susan Bjerre



PS:

\* A third-generation Carmelite told me that the original impetus for not assigning addresses was to enable people to avoid creditors. Are we still encouraging shady behavior?



**Carmel-  
by-the-Sea**

Nova Romero &lt;nromero@ci.carmel.ca.us&gt;

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**Urgent: Need address in Address Management System**

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**Frank van Diggelen** [REDACTED] >  
To: cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us

Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 7:46 AM

Dear Carmel City Clerk,

At your meeting today, please will you make a plan to add addresses to the USPS Address Management System. This is an urgent need for any of us doing business online, since we cannot get full access to banking sites, airlines sites, government sites, and many others unless we can prove we have a residence. And this requires an address in the Address Management System.

This is different from physical addresses on houses, numbers on streets, etc, so please can you focus on this internet problem, and not conflate these issues which will lead to more delay.

For more on this topic you can see [this section of my recent talk](#) on GPS at the Sunset Center.

You already have a qualified volunteer to do the work, Kevin Ruess, so this should have little or no impact on the city budget. Nor will this have any effect on the local post office, or PO Boxes.

Please can you forward this email to the other council members and staff?

thank you  
Frank van Diggelen