January 19, 2018

Honorable Mayor Mordo and Members of the City Council
City of Los Altos
1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

Re: January 20, 2018 City Council Goal Setting Retreat

Dear Mayor Mordo, Vice Mayor Lee Eng, and Councilmembers Bruins, Pepper and Prochnow:

Silicon Valley at Home (SV@Home) is the voice of affordable housing in Silicon Valley, representing a broad range of interests, from leading employers who are driving the Bay Area economy to labor and service organizations, to nonprofit and for-profit developers who provide housing and services to those most in need.

On behalf of our members, we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Council’s goals. In light of our region’s acute affordable housing crisis, SV@Home strongly recommends that the Council take actions to increase the City’s stock of affordable and moderate-income homes and achieve a better jobs-housing balance in 2018. We urge the Council to continue to prioritize affordable housing in 2018, as it did in 2017. In addition, we recommend that the City:

- Adopt a strong accessory dwelling unit (ADU) ordinance that provides flexible regulations such as reasonable setback requirements and minimum lot size to make it easier for residents to develop.
- Expand the inclusionary ordinance on for-sale developments to 15 percent.
- Adopt an inclusionary rental requirement of 15 percent, targeting a range of affordability levels, including homes for lower-income households.
SV@Home is a new nonprofit organization that is driving the creation of affordable housing for a more vibrant and equitable Silicon Valley. SV@Home represents a broad range of interests, from leading employers who drive the Bay Area economy, to labor and service organizations, to local government agencies, to nonprofit and for-profit developers who provide housing and services to those most in need.

We appreciate the leadership that this Council has demonstrated and look forward to working with all of you to ensure that the City can continue to improve living conditions for all including lower-income members of the community that help to maintain and sustain the Valley’s vitality and quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and welcome any questions you may have regarding the above recommendations.

Sincerely,

Pilar Lorenzana
Deputy Director