February 4, 2019

Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Members of the City Council
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara, 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Arenas, Carrasco, Davis, Diep, Carrasco, Esparza, Foley, Khamis, and Peralez

Re: Support for item 4.5, 4.6, and 4.7 Actions Related to the Loan Commitment for the Balbach Street, Page Street, and Roosevelt Park Sites

On behalf of our members, we write today to express our support for the Balbach Street, Page Street, and Roosevelt Park affordable housing developments as they seek City financing. In total, these three projects will provide 249 new affordable homes, including permanent supportive housing, workforce housing, housing for transitional youth, and housing opportunities for developmentally disabled residents. These are challenging times for housing, and these projects represent the great work that City staff and development partners are doing to respond to critical community needs.

San Jose is on track to meet its RHNA obligations for market-rate housing. However, the City continues to struggle to meet the targets for housing affordable to ELI, VLI and LI households. This has not been for a lack of effort. The City has worked hard to find funding to subsidize new affordable homes, and has 2,000 new units in the planning and construction phases—20% of the way toward the Mayor’s goal of 10,000 new affordable homes.

Developing affordable housing during this period, when the significant needs outstrip available resources, has required that Housing Department staff and their developer partners double down to access leveraged funds. These projects are illustrative of how local investment of City resources from the LMIHAF and Inclusionary Housing Fund are being successfully leveraged with outside resources, including funds from the State Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Grant (AHSC) Program, the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee, and the County’s Measure A funds.

The broad variety of housing opportunities proposed here, available to households with different needs and incomes, is critical to the City’s efforts to promote housing opportunities for all.
We thank you for your leadership in addressing the affordable housing crisis and urge you to approve funding for these much needed affordable homes.

Sincerely,

Leslye Corsiglia
Executive Director