TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

April 22, 2019

Honorable Mayor Matichak and Members of the City Council
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View 94041

Dear Mayor Matichak, Vice Mayor Abe-Koga, and Councilmembers Clark, Hicks, Kamei, McAlister, and Ramirez,

RE: Item 7.1: Council Goal Setting for Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21

On behalf of SV@Home and our members we write today to thank the Council for your continued commitment to prioritizing housing solutions for people of all incomes and abilities. We fully support your ongoing efforts to plan for, and incentivize the development of, affordable housing opportunities across the city. The Council can build on this work by prioritizing the study and development of a policy to address displacement issues in Mountain View, which could provide a framework for future decision-making on this pressing community concern.

Since the Council’s initial goal-setting meeting in February, you have considered two redevelopment proposals that are resulting in the reduction of naturally-occurring affordable housing in Mountain View and its replacement with for-sale, market-rate rowhomes. During the deliberations on these difficult decisions, the Council expressed frustration with the lack of available tools to provide a meaningful response to displacement challenges. You now have the means to take on this challenge directly.

We urge the Council to provide staff with direction to craft a strategy to proactively engage with displacement issues, included in the staff report as Proposed Project 1.9. Staff should have the freedom to develop a full list of options that the Council can then weigh to determine which tools are best suited to Mountain View. This allows the Council the greatest number of options and the flexibility to best respond to future displacement concerns.

We are excited that the Council has kept housing at the center of your work and look forward to supporting you as you work to update your BMR ordinance, consider opportunities for affordable housing in your major planning areas and on public lands, and explore incentives for missing-middle housing solutions. Many of the recommended projects under Goal II are steps that build upon the city’s commitment to increasing the availability of affordable housing including zoning changes that would allow for additional flexibility in developing ADUs and missing middle housing types, addressing potential precise plan areas such as Shenandoah and Moffett, and ensuring public property is best leveraged for community benefit. We also strongly support the
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proposals to build partnerships between the City and Destination:Home and the Housing Trust to address issues of homelessness and homeownership, respectively.

We believe 2019 offers the chance to both reinforce the city’s great work on a variety of housing policies and take on new issues that will improve the quality of life of all of your residents. SV@Home looks forward to partnering with the Council and City Staff to support the implementation of your housing goals.

Sincerely,

David K Meyer
Director of Strategic Initiatives