



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning  
817 Montgomery Street  
Mountain View, CA 94041

March 18, 2019

Mountain View City Council  
City Hall, 500 Castro Street  
PO Box 7540  
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 7.1 Update on Initiatives to Assist Homeless and Unstably Housed Residents, and Consideration of Parking Enforcement Strategies

Dear Mayor Matichak and Members of the City Council:

The Mountain Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) has several comments we would like the City Council to consider for the "Update on Initiatives to Assist Homeless and Unstably Housed Residents, and Consideration of Parking Enforcement Strategies", Item 7.1, on the 19 March agenda.

From 2007 through July 2018, the City of Mountain View has permitted 5,979 new housing units, with a net gain of 5,422. This falls far below the demand for new housing in the city created by our explosive job growth. During this time, 557 homes were demolished, many of them naturally affordable housing. The forces of dramatic population pressure, slower than needed housing development, and the destruction of naturally affordable housing have led to a perfect storm that has dramatically decreased the supply of affordable housing in our city.

To this end, we support the following solutions that provide both short and long term solutions for all residents of our community:

1. A moratorium on new parking enforcement ordinances until safe parking solutions are created and residents have moved to safe parking sites. If we remove vehicle residents without a solution for safe parking, some vehicle residents will be compelled to live on the street or in homeless encampments. And some, including those who work in this city as teachers, cafeteria

workers, office staff, and in other jobs we all rely on, will simply leave, at much cost to our community.

2. A significant increase in safe parking spaces, be it on private, city, or other public land, in areas large enough to provide community and security for residents, and allow more efficient deployment of infrastructure and social services. The currently planned additional 10-11 spots is insufficient. We urge the Council to strongly consider Shoreline Lot A/B, or other City property with sufficient space, as a temporary, if not permanent, measure.
3. Appropriations focused on housing and safe parking, not on enforcement. By spending more money quickly on safe parking and housing measures, enforcement becomes a moot point.
4. An ordinance to remove vehicles leaking sewage, as this protects our entire community, the vehicle residents first and foremost.
5. Nominal registration and fees for safe parking site residents. This will help ensure that the residents who have the most need for space are accommodated, and that the sites can be maintained.
6. The rapid approval and build out of the proposed and approved 17,350 housing units (in North Bayshore, Terra Bella, and East Whisman). Over 48% of the recent "Living in Vehicles" city survey respondents say that they are seriously concerned about the quantity of housing in Mountain View. We must solve our housing crisis and end the jobs-housing imbalance by putting housing near jobs. The longer we delay these developments, the more severe the vehicle dwelling situation will be, becoming much harder to solve as a result.
7. Significantly adding genuinely affordable housing units. Over 60% of recent "Living in Vehicles" city survey respondents want the City and regional partners to build more housing units that are affordable. We need more truly affordable and innovative solutions, and not just token "more affordable" units in new developments. The Franklin Family Apartments and the proposed 777 West Middlefield project are examples that truly serve our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'IdaRose Sylvester', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

IdaRose Sylvester

On behalf of the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning.

cc:

Dan Rich, City Manager

Lisa Natusch, City Clerk

**About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning**

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a group of local volunteers dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to [mvcsp.info@gmail.com](mailto:mvcsp.info@gmail.com).