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Leslye Corsiglia
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TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

September 7, 2018

Honorable President Joe Simitian and Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear President Simitian, Vice President Chavez, and Supervisors Cortese, Wasserman, and Yeager:

RE: Item 10 – Funding for Housing for Santa Clara County’s Developmentally Disabled Population

We write today on behalf of our members to express our support for housing solutions for the developmentally disabled.

An estimated two-thirds of adults with developmental disabilities live at home with aging family members. With very limited personal income, the death of a parent could easily leave them with no place to live. Parents are understandably concerned as their adult children face both the loss of their support network and their housing. Safe, secure, affordable homes are needed to give those with developmental disabilities a place to call their own.

The solution is to include special needs units in new development. In the past, a number of successful developments have set aside a percentage of their units for developmentally disabled individuals. This includes developments like the Edenvale Apartments in South San Jose with 14 units, Casa Feliz in Downtown San Jose with 21 of 60 units, and Rivertown in Santa Clara with 18 of 100 units. Residents receive services from the San Andreas Regional Center (SARC).

The bad news is that, although there is a solution, funding to subsidize these units is no longer available. Cities have limited funds in the aftermath of redevelopment dissolution, and Measure A dollars prioritize those who are homeless. While we understand that a percentage of the homeless population served by Measure A self identify as having developmental disabilities, this is not a scientific statistic and they may not be SARC clients.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to take action to respond to this need. Alternatives could include:

Honorable President Joe Simitian and Members of the Board of Supervisors
Re: Item 10 Funding for Housing For Santa Clara County's Developmentally Disabled Population
September 7, 2018
Page 2 of 2

1. Directing staff to identify funding that could subsidize homes for the developmentally disabled.
2. Directing staff to work with the developmentally disabled community to implement creative solutions that allow Measure A projects to serve this important need.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Leslye Corsiglia
Executive Director