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May 31, 2019

Honorable Mayor Filseth and Members of the Palo Alto City Council  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Mayor Filseth, Vice Mayor Fine, and Councilmembers Cormack, Kniss, Kou, and Tanaka:

**RE: Item 14 - Cubberley Master Plan and Level of Housing**

On behalf of SV@Home and our members, we write today in support of the proposals to include housing opportunities in the Cubberley Center Master Plan. Thank you to city staff and everyone involved in the process who have worked to identify housing options that reflect the Plan's community-centric approach. SV@Home supports Housing Option 4, which proposes 64 units of Palo Alto USD housing for teachers and school staff as well as 100 additional homes that could be affordable to seniors.

Two of the biggest barriers to new affordable housing development are the related challenges of identifying available land and the high cost of purchasing that land. Palo Alto has an excellent opportunity to use public land at Cubberley to solve for both of these challenges and create a significant community benefit of affordable housing.

As they age, many Palo Alto seniors are looking for options to downsize and age in place in their community. The new community center at Cubberley would be an ideal location for senior housing, letting seniors easily access community activities as well as nearby shops and services. Neighboring cities, including most recently Mountain View, have also been pursuing innovative partnerships with school districts to create new housing opportunities for teachers and school staff.

The community co-design process has resulted in a vision of a community center that serves the needs of teachers, students, seniors, and the surrounding neighborhood. This multigenerational model has been very successful at the nearby Palo Alto Jewish Community Center on San Antonio Road, which includes the 176-home Moldaw Senior Residences alongside a gym, preschool, concert hall, and other community amenities.

At this early stage of the process, it is important to study all the options for the Cubberley Center Master Plan. We urge the Council to support the study of Option 4, which includes the full range of housing opportunities.

Sincerely,



David K Meyer  
Director of Strategic Initiatives