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Executive Director

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

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

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

RE: Item #4.4—City Council Priority #7: Accessory Dwelling Unit Amnesty Program

We write today in support of the memo from Mayor Sam Liccardo and Council members Arenas, Carrasco, and Foley to encourage the adoption of policies that incentivize the legalization of currently illegal Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

In recent years, State legislation has been adopted to encourage the development of ADUs as a naturally affordable source of housing. ADUs also are a good land use option for cities as they better utilize scarce land and reduce pressures for sprawl. As the staff report notes, legislation currently on the Governor's desk would provide more flexibility for illegal units and Junior ADUs.

We thank the staff for their work and their thorough report, and appreciate the identification of the key amnesty program elements. However, we know that the direction the Council takes with respect to these elements will determine the effectiveness of the City's efforts. **To that end, we ask:**

- **That all fees and penalties for bringing illegal units up to code be waived.**
- **That the focus be on health and safety and not building code to ensure that more homes where San Jose residents now live are not lost. It was disheartening to see that 750 homes have been lost due to the City's current policies.**

The City has done a great job making it easier to develop ADUs, including the recent announcement for the streamlined process and one-stop shop. We thank the staff and the Mayor and Council for your work to make this housing option more viable.

Sincerely,

Leslye Corsiglia
Executive Director