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*Executive Director*

Mayor Hicks and Councilmembers  
City of Mountain View  
500 Castro St  
Mountain View, CA 94041

Dear Mayor Hicks, Vice Mayor Showalter, and Councilmembers Abe-Koga, Kamei, Matichak, Ramirez, and Ramos:

**RE: Item 4.3 Google North Bayshore Master Plan**

We are writing in support of the Google North Bayshore Master Plan. This is a significant action, marking the culmination of years of work. This has not been a simple process, and we commend City staff and Google for their tenacious commitment to getting us all to this moment. And, we urge your support!

In 2017, SV@Home led a diverse coalition of housers in support of a housing-rich North Bayshore Precise Plan and our shared success was tremendous. In reviewing our archives of this campaign, it is striking how monumental this action was at the time. The City displayed tremendous leadership both at the staff and council level, working in partnership with Google and prodded by strong community engagement and advocacy.

What we have come to recognize as good development planning was relatively new, addressing questions like: What do complete neighborhoods look like? What does it mean to really bring housing and jobs growth together? How should we think about economic diversity, use diversity – parks, schools, environmental sustainability? How can we ensure that this new place is accessible to everybody?

At that time, the City of Mountain View approved a plan that called for 9,850 new homes, of which 20% would be affordable - 15% through the existing inclusionary BMR program and an additional 5% as a part of community benefits. Adding millions of square feet of new office and retail development, you had an audacious vision of how to approach development at significant scale in the Bay Area. We were excited and invested and pushed hard to overcome pockets of resistance in the city. North Bayshore would be the model for integrated mixed-use, mixed-income development.

Since 2017 there have been a lot of moving pieces - new councils, conflicts between multiple landowners and the city, a global pandemic, and dynamic changes to the economy. The work of getting to masterplans and shovels in the ground is never easy. And, over the last few years it has become extraordinarily challenging.

The resulting plan is not exactly as envisioned, but it demonstrates the shared commitment to realizing the vision. This plan moves forward with residential development, which was originally tied to commercial development. It also front loads a significant portion of the

June 12, 2023

Re: Item 4.3 of the June 13<sup>th</sup> Council Agenda: North Bayshore Precise Plan Bonus Office Floor Area Ratio Authorization

Page 2 of 2

planned affordable housing, recognizing the magnitude of the need in Mountain View, even as it pulls back on the full 20% we were all looking forward to.

This is a substantial project and the planning work here is detailed and deliberate, showing a clear commitment to outcomes. In addition, the need for affordable housing in Mountain View is staggering. Getting plans on paper is hard, keeping them moving forward with a strong sustained vision is harder and will require continued commitment by the city's leadership to this partnership with Google. We are in strong support of moving forward.

Sincerely,



Regina Celestin Williams  
Executive Director

