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**TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL**

May 12, 2023

San Jose City Council  
San Jose City Hall  
200 E Santa Clara St

**Re: Measure E Expenditure Plan and the 2023-2024 Budget**

Mayor Mahan, Vice Mayor Kamei and members of the San Jose City Council.

We are writing to you as the Board of Directors of SV@Home, to express our concern with the proposed changes to the Measure E expenditure plan, as it proposes a significant step away from the City's long-standing commitment to affordable housing as the cornerstone of a comprehensive approach to the current housing affordability crisis. These changes would be a violation of the trust of the voters who supported Measure E as a commitment to a balanced response to the housing needs of San Jose.

The homelessness crisis that our communities are experiencing is a symptom of an overwhelming shortage of homes that people can afford. Utilizing Measure E to singularly fund emergency interim housing and homelessness services will significantly disrupt the city's growing pipeline of affordable housing developments and have a dramatic impact on the city's commitments to expanding affordable housing opportunities in key development areas throughout the city. While the proposal is being described as a one-time reallocation of resources, the city's overcommitment to emergency interim shelters is deeply irresponsible, creating massive unfunded obligations that will continue to drain resources away from affordable housing production and preservation, including the creation of permanent homes for the formerly unhoused.

SV@Home's vision is a diverse and equitable Silicon Valley where everyone has access to a safe, stable, and affordable home. This is why we joined with other housing organizations in partnership with Mayor Sam Liccardo and a broad-based coalition of philanthropy, health care, public education, community service, labor and environmental justice groups to ensure the successful passage of Measure E in the City of San Jose. SV@Home has committed to the Community Plan to End Homelessness in Santa Clara County and supported City Council's reallocation of 15% of Measure E funds from affordable housing production to emergency interim shelter as an important innovation. But, we know from decades of experience that shelters are only effective when there are sufficient permanent homes for community members to transition into.

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Re: Measure E Expenditure Plan

Page 2 of 2

As experienced community and institutional leaders, we understand the frustration of confronting intractable challenges and the need for innovative solutions. As housers, we know the weight of the human costs of housing instability and homelessness. We also know the tremendous pressure placed on civic leaders by their constituents to solve problems faster. This is a moment when leadership means maintaining our commitments and being accountable for the long-term investment in the permanent homes we all know our communities so desperately need.

In Service,

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