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Executive Director

Delivered via email

June 16, 2023

Mayor & City Council
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: 2023-2024 Budget Measure E Expenditure Plan**Mayor Mahan, Vice-mayor Kamei, Members of the City Council**

We know there is a broad consensus within San Jose that addressing the housing affordability and homelessness crisis is the most urgent challenge facing the city. There is also consensus that we need to continue to expand both interim shelters and permanent affordable housing in response to this challenge. **We ask that you adopt the proposal in the memo by Councilmembers Davis, Ortiz, and Torres to demonstrate the city's bold and unwavering commitment to immediately, efficiently, and effectively addressing the crisis, as stable housing that people can afford is the solution to homelessness.**

Today, 170,000 San Joseans live in severely rent-burdened households, most at risk of displacement and becoming unhoused. Roughly 1 in 4 households who are displaced in San Jose become functionally homeless, bouncing between family and friends, doubling or tripling up, renting garages and basements, living out of cars, or struggling to survive on our streets and creek beds. Housing instability and displacement disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and Latinx families and communities, just as these groups are overrepresented among the close to 7,000 people experiencing homelessness in San Jose.

People transitioning out of homelessness benefit from interim shelters, but the outcome data on the existing shelter sites shows that their success depends greatly on access to permanent, affordable homes. Measure E is our primary tool to increase the availability of permanent housing solutions for those who need them most.

That is why we appreciate your leadership in shifting the conversation in recent weeks to acknowledge this urgency and emphasize the need for comprehensive and sustainable solutions to this crisis. The proposal from Councilmembers Dev Davis, Omar Torres, and Peter Ortiz addresses the needs for the coming year by covering the costs of continuing the Council's commitment to building 1,000 Emergency Interim Shelters and following through on plans to issue a substantial NOFA for the ready pipeline of new affordable housing developments. This is accomplished within

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the current Measure E spending plan. The proposal also acknowledges the challenge of the future costs of emergency interim shelter operations by developing a path for creating a long-term plan for sustainability.

Our message has been clear and consistent, the responsible, equitable, and most effective path forward is a “yes, and” approach that supports long-term housing people can afford while recognizing the value of continuing to integrate interim shelter innovations.

We are confident that you will support this path towards our shared values for the thousands of San Jose residents in need of a stable, safe, and affordable home.

Sincerely,



Regina Celestin Williams
Executive Director