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The Van Every Group

Staff

Leslye Corsiglia
Executive Director



95 South Market Street
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Transmitted via email

June 20, 2016

Honorable Board President Cortese and Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 W. Hedding Street, 11th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Board President Cortese and Supervisors Chavez, Simitian, Wasserman, and Yeager:

Re: Item 10: Resolution to Place a General Obligation Bond on the November 8, 2016 Ballot

On behalf of our members and the undersigned partner organizations, we write today to express our strong support of your vote to approve the placement of a \$950 million General Obligation Bond on the November ballot to fund the creation of new affordable housing and permanent supportive housing for the homeless in Santa Clara County.

It is hard to express how important a bond measure of this size would be to the community's efforts to respond to the housing crisis we now face. With the loss of significant funding for affordable housing—the largest being the elimination of redevelopment funding that brought \$60 million annually to Santa Clara County cities—few resources are available to finance the development of new affordable housing. Accessing funding for permanent supportive housing for the homeless is even more challenging, and the subsidy amount required even greater.

If placed on the ballot and subsequently approved by the County's voters, these funds will create housing opportunities for thousands of County residents who are struggling to afford the high cost of living in the South Bay. This includes those who are living on our streets, in shelters, or in places not meant for human habitation, as well as our seniors, our veterans, and our working families. Not only is providing quality, safe, affordable housing the humane action and the right thing to do, it has been proven to save the County money that can be reprogrammed to other high priority needs.

We applaud the County for its leadership around housing and homelessness, and commend you for making affordable housing one of the highest County priorities.

As a result of these efforts, there have been significant, tangible results—the most recent homeless count in Santa Clara County showed a 14% decrease in homelessness between 2013 and 2015. **We know that the most important way to reduce homelessness is by providing accessible and affordable housing.** Committing a significant portion of the bond funds to the creation of Permanent Supportive Housing and homes for families earning less than 30% of area median income will help move people off the streets and into housing as well as keep families housed who are at risk of homelessness.

We also want to thank the County for considering stakeholder input. The Spending Plan included in the staff report, along with the proposal announced earlier today, incorporates many of the concerns raised and provides a continuum of housing options that we can collectively strongly support.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to approve inclusion of this ballot measure on the November ballot. We have a unique opportunity to respond and we need to take advantage. **The time to act is now.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leslye Corsiglia
Executive Director, SV@Home

Janice Jensen
President and CEO, Habitat for
Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley

Kevin Zwick
CEO, Housing Trust Silicon Valley

Amie Fishman
Executive Director, Non-Profit Housing
Association of Northern California

Jennifer Loving
Executive Director, Destination: Home

Chris Neale
Executive Vice-President, The CORE
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Mary Murtagh
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Executive Director, Sacred Heart
Community Service

Louis Chicoine
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Matt Franklin
President and CEO, MidPen Housing

Susan Friedland
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Housing Associates

Candice Gonzalez
President and CEO, Palo Alto Housing

Linda Mandolini
President, Eden Housing

John McLemore
Founding Member, Silicon Valley at
Home

Honorable Board President and Members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Item 10 on the June 21, 2016 Board Agenda

Derecka Mehrens
Executive Director, Working
Partnerships, USA

Geoff Morgan
President and CEO, First Community
Housing

Ron Morgan
President, Community Housing
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Dan Mountsier
President, Pinion Property Company

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Executive Director, Resources for
Community Development

James Silverwood
President and CEO, Affirmed Housing

Dan Wu
Executive Director, Charities Housing

Amy Anderson
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Anthony King
Community Organizer, Silicon Valley
De-Bug

Sandy Perry
Community Organizer, Affordable
Housing Network

John Olson and Laura Diaz
Community Organizers, Sacred Heart
Housing Action Committee

Cc: Ky Le
Director, Office of Supportive Housing, County of Santa Clara

SV@Home is a new nonprofit organization that is driving the creation of affordable housing for a more vibrant and equitable Silicon Valley. SV@Home represents a broad range of interests, from leading employers who drive the Bay Area economy, to labor and service organizations, to local government agencies, to nonprofit and for-profit developers who provide housing and services to those most in need.