



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area
97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022**

February 11, 2008

Mayor Tom Means and Members of the City Council
City of Mountain View
P.O. Box 7540
500 Castro Street
Mountain View 94041

Re: Council Meeting Feb. 12, Agenda Item: 8.1

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

The League of Women Voters of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area supports the City's contributing \$150,000 in BMR funds to the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County. The Housing Trust uses its funds in three general areas: homebuyer assistance programs, financing for affordable rental housing developments such as the proposed Evelyn Avenue development, and assistance for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. The LWV believes that allocating funds for each of these needs is important in trying to solve the affordable housing crisis.

Moreover, the Housing Trust funds contributed by Mountain View have come back to Mountain View to help finance New Central Park, San Antonio Place, and fourteen first-time homebuyers and will continue to come back to the City for affordable housing programs.

Although the City can invest its BMR funds directly into projects such as San Antonio Place, New Central Park and the Evelyn Avenue development, the Housing Trust is an easier vehicle for helping first-time homebuyers and possibly the homeless.

A Blue Ribbon Commission to End Homelessness in Santa Clara County has recently found that the greatest need for local funding in Santa Clara County is to finance programs for the homeless. A second great need is to help first-time homebuyers. Contributions to the Housing Trust can be used for these purposes to help Mountain View residents through County programs. Therefore, we agree with the recommendation of Councilmember Age-Koga.

Sincerely,

Donna Yobs
1157 Karen Way
Mountain View, CA 94040
Co-Chair of Housing Committee
League of Women Voters of Los Altos-Mountain View Area

Cc: Kevin Duggan

