



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

April 17, 2016

Mayor Showalter and Members of the Mountain View City Council  
City Hall, 500 Castro Street  
P.O. Box 7540  
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: April 19, 2016 City Council Agenda Item 8.1, Development of Lot 12

Dear Mayor Showalter and Members of the Mountain View City Council:

The League of Women Voters supports actions that provide affordable housing for all Californians. Based on this position, we strongly support building a substantial amount of 100%-affordable housing on Lot 12. Though you might want to consider allowing some ground-floor retail if the current height limit is raised, the proximity to existing downtown retail decreases the importance of such a feature.

Our preference is that all units be affordable to households earning no more than 50% AMI. We suggest a unit mix tilted toward small units. This will automatically make it attractive to many seniors, who have long waiting lists, though we do not prioritize strictly all-senior housing there. But this is an ideal location for seniors, with all of downtown Mountain View's amenities—both practical and cultural--within easy walking distance. There are also great transit connections. It should additionally be very attractive to low-income downtown workers, helping to decrease the number of "help wanted" signs on Castro Street.

As you know, affordable housing of this sort requires minimal onsite parking. The City might want to contribute to the cost of building parking space over and above what is needed for the housing, to supplement the supply downtown. Some saving of spaces through a modest "shared parking" arrangement might also be possible. This might be at least as good a place to invest in City-owned parking as that proposed under what is now Lot 8.

This site should be very attractive for affordable housing developers. We hope that you will put an RFP on a fast track.

Thank you for your continued close attention to our critical shortage of housing, especially acute for people with low incomes, and notably for low-income seniors.

Sincerely,

Donna Yobs  
Co-Chair, Affordable Housing Committee  
League of Women Voters of Los Altos/Mountain View Area  
Mountain View, CA 94040

Cc: Dan Rich                      Randal Tsuda  
    Alex Andrade                Eric Anderson