



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area**

December 9, 2018

Mayor Siegel and Members of the City Council
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View 94041

Re: City Council, December 11, Agenda Item 6.1 – Residential Development at 2005 Rock Street

Dear Mayor Siegel and Members of the City Council:

The LWV urges the Council to deny this application in its current form. The applicant is requesting numerous variances which we believe should not be agreed to in light of the many negative aspects of this project.

First, our LWV believes that displacement is a serious problem that should be limited insofar as is feasible. When our League studied Mountain View's rent stabilization policy, there was consensus that there are substantial benefits to the community when displacement is minimized and older housing stock is preserved.

Second, the LWVUS made passage of the Fair Housing Amendments a priority in 1980. This support has included support of enforcement of the act, which incorporates use of the disparate impact regulations referenced in the Pillsbury letter to Council dated November 29th.

We have also been supportive of various ways to improve the jobs/housing imbalance in Mountain View. Because this project would cause a net loss of housing units, we believe this is inconsistent with the Council's recent direction to improve the jobs/housing imbalance.

Finally, the Bay Area is currently considering a new CASA compact to address the Bay Area's Housing Crisis and one of its three principles is preserving existing affordable homes. Approval of the 2005 Rock Street project would be contrary to this basic principle. The analysis of SV@Home that since 2015 more than 610 units of older rental housing have been lost or are in the process of being demolished, while only 135 very low, low and moderate-income units have been permitted, highlights the enormity of this loss of affordable housing. We suggest that Council consider possible solutions to this failure to preserve existing affordable housing before approving more projects such as 2005 Rock Street, as preservation of existing housing is also a goal of Mountain View's Housing Element

Thank you for considering our input.

Donna Yobs
Co-Chair, Housing Committee
LWV of the Los Altos/Mountain View Area

cc: Wayne Chen
Dan Rich

Stephanie Williams
Matthew VanOosten