



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

February 26, 2019

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

Re: City Council Study Session, February 28, Agenda Item 4.1 – Goal Setting

Dear Mayor Matichak and Members of the City Council:

The LWV urges the Council to adopt several of the specific suggestions proposed by Councilmembers related to affordable housing, along with continuing the first two current Major Goals, as priorities. We appreciate the time that several Councilmembers devoted to detailing their proposed goals. Councilmember Ramirez has recommended that the first current Major Goal, “Promote Strategies to Protect Vulnerable Populations and Preserve the Socioeconomic and Cultural Diversity of the Community”, include metrics to see whether this goal is being achieved, a reasonable suggestion.

He has also proposed two specific recommendations that would further this particular goal, studying anti-displacement policies and also protections for mobile home park residents. Councilmember Hicks has proposed consideration of similar policies and protections. The LWV urges Council to consider adding these project recommendations as ways to further the first current Major Goal.

We see the displacement issue as a significant problem in Mountain View. A number of specific proposals relating to this issue were submitted by Councilmembers Ramirez and Hicks; we believe all deserve study. Councilmember Clark, also, in the past expressed interest in studying a “no net loss” policy. We believe a “no net loss” policy should focus on loss of rent-stabilized and naturally affordable housing. A possible moratorium on demolitions of these types of housing is worthy of consideration. This would allow time for the Council to explore policies to mitigate tenant displacement, whether through requiring replacement of lost rent-stabilized units, enhanced tenant relocation benefits and/or emergency rental assistance, first right of return/purchase policies, and/or incentives to rental property owners to rehouse displaced tenants.

In furtherance of the first current Major Goal, we also agree with Councilmember Hicks that it is critical to find ways to deal with the RV/vehicle living situation expeditiously and humanely.

And, finally, we hope that the below-market-rate (BMR) program for ownership housing will be revisited soon. At this point, developers are not required to build the BMR units and the in-lieu fees are much too low. It is critical to get this program updated since so many condo projects are currently being proposed.

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

cc: Wayne Chen

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