



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

March 24, 2019

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

Re: City Council Meeting, March 26, Agenda Item 6.1 – Rowhouse Development at 1950 Montecito Avenue

Dear Mayor Matchak and Members of the City Council:

The LWV wants to reiterate its concerns about displacement. We have written before about these concerns, as so many naturally affordable rentals, especially rent stabilized units, are being torn down and replaced with market-rate condos.

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 has just adopted the CASA compact to address the Bay Area's Housing Crisis and one of its three principles is preserving existing affordable homes. Approval of this project would be contrary to this basic principle. Last year the Council directed staff to consider amendments to the below-market-rate (BMR) program, especially the ownership BMR program. It is disappointing that this developer is planning a development that would perhaps be required to have 15% BMR ownership units (5 units) in just a few short months.

We do not know if it's possible to postpone approval of this project until the Council adopts Phase 2 of the BMR affordable housing program modifications, but the repeated instances of affordable rental units being demolished to make way for new market-rate ownership units demonstrates the urgency for the Council to consider methods for mitigating this issue.

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
Diana Pancholi

Aarti Srivastava