



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

September 8, 2019

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

City Council Meeting, September 10, Agenda Item #7.1, RFQ for Lot 12

Dear Mayor Matichak and Members of the City Council:

The LWV strongly supports the development of Lot 12 for affordable housing. This is an ideal location for seniors, families, anyone needing affordable housing. First, we support targeting this housing to lower-income households as this is the greatest need. In addition, as the staff report points out, moderate-income households are often served by market-rate housing.

Regarding the other questions posed by the staff report, we encourage the Council to reconsider the parameters of the RFQ. It seems that by requiring the developer to replace the parking lost on Lot 12, Council has added substantial cost to the project. Should this requirement be removed, it is possible that the housing might be more affordable and that City funds might be saved. Hopefully, a parking structure could be built elsewhere, and then more housing units could be built at this site.

Similarly, the requirement of a non-residential component on the first floor could perhaps be reconsidered if this would result in more badly needed affordable units. On the other hand, perhaps some of the suggested non-residential uses are appealing enough that the Council would want to subsidize these uses.

We also hope that Council will clarify that it is possible to build six stories on Lot 12 with excellent design and transitions.

Thank you for considering our input.

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

cc. Wayne Chen

Aarti Shrivastava

Dan Rich