



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

April 14, 2020

Mayor Abe-Koga and Members of the City Council
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

Re: Council Meeting April 14 – Agenda Item #7.2 Appropriation of CDBG Funds for COVID-19 Rent Relief Program

The LWV supports the amendment of the 2019-20 Action Plan to provide CDBG funds for the City's COVID-19 emergency Rent Relief Program (RRP). We applaud the Staff's recommendation that all available CDBG funds be allocated to the COVID-19 RRP project. We are pleased to see that these funds can be reallocated from prior commitments to Palo Alto Housing and MidPen's affordable housing projects without impacting the financial feasibility of these important new developments.

We see the need for more RRP as enormous, based upon the overwhelming number of applications received by CSA in approximately two weeks. We applaud the work the agency is doing to serve people and support their assisting people with the lowest incomes in a timely manner.

We are concerned that allocating affordable housing funds and CDBG funds to RRP will lead to a lack of funding for future affordable housing developments, such as Lot 12, Palo Alto Housing's proposed projects, and others. It is not clear from the Staff Reports how sufficient the funding is for these upcoming housing proposals. We urge the Council to consider using general funds for RRP rather than using money that is usually allocated to these much-needed affordable housing developments, if there appears to be a shortfall in aiding these new housing projects.

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

CC: Kimbra McCarthy Aarti Shrivastava Wayne Chen Tim Wong