



May 10, 2020

Mayor Pepper and Members of the City Council  
City Hall  
1 North San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, CA 94022

Re: Council Meeting May 12, Study Session re Below-Market-Rate (BMR) Waiting Lists

The League of Women Voters is pleased that the City has contracted with Palo Alto Housing (PAH) to administer the BMR program due to their many years of experience. Generally, we defer to their recommendations.

If Los Altos keeps the first priority-generally for school district, City and fire district employees-we suggest that under "b" the priority should be for "regular, full-time staff", as spelled out in "a". We also wonder how library staff will be treated.

In the second priority, which currently includes those who have lived or worked in Los Altos **for the prior two years**, we urge this priority be modeled after the preferences of Palo Alto and Mountain View which state preference is given to persons who live **or work in the City at the time of application**.

Should the Council decide to keep the priority for those who have lived or worked in the City for two years in the second priority, we recommend that in the third priority, "a" should be revised to state "Persons **who live or work** in the City at the time of application." And "b" and "c" should be dropped.

If the recommendations we have made in the second and third paragraphs above are followed, we recommend that priorities 3 and 4 be dropped on the assumption that in reality BMRs go to those who meet the criteria for priority 1 or 2. PAH can advise as to whether this assumption is correct.

Thank you for considering our input.

Sue Russell

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

Cc: Chris Jordan

Jon Biggs

Guido Persicone