



September 26, 2021

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

Re: Council Meeting September 28th, Agenda Item - 7.1 – Gamel Way Residential Development

Dear Mayor Kamei and Members of the City Council:

The LWV has consistently supported strategies to prevent displacement and we commend the City for negotiating with the developer to provide significant tenant relocation benefits. Because the City is not required to sell Gamel Way to the developer, it has leverage to negotiate a better package for displaced tenants.

We have attended the community meetings on the Gamel Way project, including the recent meetings where the details for the below-market-rate (BMR) purchase program have been explained. Many issues are unresolved. One potential problem mentioned in the Staff report is that there is no HOA emergency reserve provided here as the City requires for typical BMR programs. In addition, many tenants may not qualify to purchase a BMR either because their credit is poor or they cannot afford the down payment and closing costs. Another issue is that there are 6 very-low-income (VLI) BMRs being provided, but apparently many more VLI tenants at Gamel Way.

We are concerned, also, that if the Gamel Way tenants who choose not to purchase BMRs are not offered apartments in other Spieker properties it may be difficult for them to find another rental, either due to credit issues or landlord income qualification requirements, problems that may have been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

(Please submit any questions about this letter to Donna Yobs at [dmyobs@yahoo.com](mailto:dmyobs@yahoo.com))

Karin Bricker, President LWV of Los Altos Mountain View  
Donna Yobs, Co-Chair, Housing Committee

cc: Kimbra McCarthy      Aarti Shrivastava      Margaret Netto      Stephanie Williams