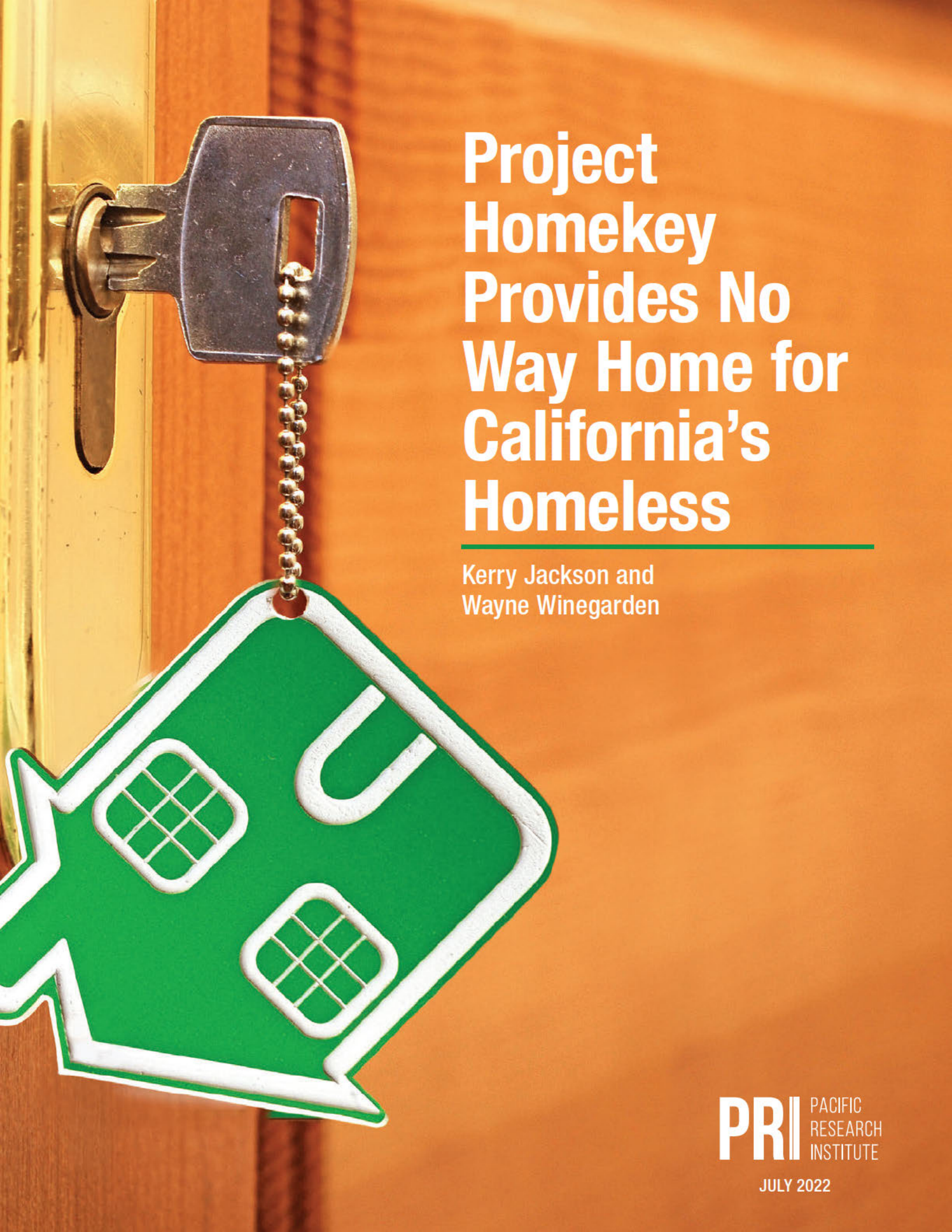


Project Homekey Provides No Way Home for California's Homeless

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PACIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Contents

Executive Summary 3

Introduction 4

The Evolution of Project Homekey 5

Project Homekey Has Not Stemmed the Rise in Homelessness 6

Project Homekey Is Failing Los Angeles 10

Project Homekey Is Not Helping San Francisco 11

Project Homekey Is Similarly Ineffective in Rest of the Bay Area 12

Claiming Success Does Not Make It So 13

Los Angeles' Measure HHH Fails to Deliver Results 14

CARE Court Proposal Shows Potential 16

Conclusion/Recommendations 17

Endnotes 19

About the Authors 23

About PRI 25

Executive Summary

California is spending billions of dollars on Project Homekey, which the governor claims is successfully addressing California's homelessness crisis. The evidence does not support his rosy evaluation.

While California's homelessness crisis had been consistently worsening since 2014, the COVID-19 pandemic was supposed to be a watershed moment. Turning lemons into lemonade, Governor Newsom's plan was to leverage billions of dollars of federal stimulus money and turn unused hotels, motels, and vacant apartment buildings into shelter for the homeless. Despite spending billions, Project Homekey is not helping to alleviate the crisis.

For years, California's homeless crisis has been the worst in the country. While both the sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations were declining for the nation overall, they were increasing in California. Making things worse, whereas most homeless are sheltered for the nation overall, most homeless are unsheltered in California. The consequences of growing tent cities, feces littering the sidewalks, the spread of disease, and used drug needles covering parks and beaches have become dire.

The early evidence from Project Homekey is not encouraging. Based on the homeless counts from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the state's homeless problem persists despite the billions of dollars of expenditures. Worse, as reporting from Los Angeles, San Francisco, and the rest of the Bay Area demonstrates, Project Homekey is costly and rife with abuse and inefficiencies. The renovated housing units are plagued with violence and drugs indicating that Project Homekey is failing to address the core problems causing many people to fall into homelessness in the first place.

Instead of relying on Project Homekey's "Housing First" approach, California requires a comprehensive strategy to address the crisis. To start, California should support programs that focus on shelter (often institutional shelter) and effective mental health treatment. Ideally the state would leverage the successful private nonprofit organizations that efficiently address the root causes of homelessness. To help facilitate treatment, California should use services, such as homeless dayrooms, to connect people with the appropriate treatment options. The state should also broadly implement homeless courts that can turn criminal infractions into opportunities to "sentence" mentally ill people experiencing homelessness to treatment rather than incarceration.

Policies should better leverage public resources, such as local law enforcement, to help connect homeless people with the resources and private nonprofits that can help. Law enforcement can also successfully reunite the homeless with their families or those who had previously provided them services, as Santa Monica, Santa Barbara, and Anaheim have demonstrated.

Reforms must also address the policies driving the problem including zoning laws, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and other regulations to promote greater housing supply and improved housing affordability across the state. The state should also actively discourage homeless encampments, enforce laws against theft that include repealing initiatives such as Proposition 47, and promote a high quality-of-life standard for all neighborhoods that includes eliminating the open-air drug markets and disregard for laws.

California cannot address the homelessness crisis without resolving the social problems that have caused so many people to be on the streets or without resolving the underlying financial and regulatory issues that make housing so expensive. This requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes driving the problem and leverages the private sector to deliver services more efficiently.

Introduction

California's homeless crisis continues to deteriorate despite the billions of dollars that the governor and legislature are throwing at the problem. As a March 2022 *Guardian* article documented,

> in the two years since [the COVID-19 pandemic hit], California's humanitarian catastrophe has worsened: deaths of people on the streets are rising; college students are living in their cars; more elderly residents are becoming unhoused; encampment communities are growing at beaches, parks, highway underpasses, lots, and sidewalks.
>
> California has the fifth largest economy in the world, a budget surplus, the most billionaires in the U.S. and some of the nation's wealthiest neighborhoods. Yet the riches of the Golden State have not yielded solutions that match the scale of the crisis that's been raging for decades.[1]

The reality that the crisis has worsened since the outbreak of COVID-19 is critical. The pandemic was initially viewed as an opportunity to implement programs that would sustainably address the growing homeless problem – the goal, as Rahm Emanuel might say, was to not let the pandemic crisis go to waste. The centerpiece of these efforts was Project Roomkey, which evolved into Project Homekey. Backed with federal financial support, the premise of these programs is to leverage the current unused motel and hotel infrastructure to move people from the streets to housing.

The Roomkey/Homekey programs are predicated on the "Housing First" approach. Housing First programs claim that a permanent and stable home is the best platform to help people overcome the challenges that led to their homelessness, including the problems of mental illness and addiction. The ineffectiveness of Project Homekey (the ongoing program) stands as a stark reminder that Housing First policies, while well intentioned, are incapable of resolving California's ever-worsening homelessness crisis.

"The reality that the crisis has worsened since the outbreak of COVID-19 is critical."

The Evolution of Project Homekey

Project Roomkey was launched in April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic "to provide non-congregate shelter options for people experiencing homelessness, protect human life, and minimize strain on health care system capacity."[2] It was "a first-in-the-nation effort to leverage Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding."[3] By the end of the month, Project Roomkey had across the state "secured 10,974 hotel and motel rooms and 1,133 trailers for extremely vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness, to help flatten the curve and preserve hospital capacity."[4]

Project Homekey grew out of Project Roomkey. Project Homekey was created by Assembly Bill 83, enacted later in 2020. The law directed state and federal emergency funds to be used to buy hotels and motels, renovate them, and "convert them into permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing homelessness."[5] The initial goal was to secure up to 15,000 rooms.[6]

> "Although Project Homekey has spent large sums, it has failed to reach its goals while, as measured by the numbers of homeless, the problem continues to worsen."

In July 2020, $550 million in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds were made available by California's Department of Housing and Community Development. Another $50 million in state General Fund dollars, and eventually $46 million in philanthropic funds for cities, counties, or other local public entities, including housing authorities or federally recognized Native American governments within California, was released. By October 2020, an additional $200 million was announced, bringing the total to $750 million in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds and $50 million in General Fund dollars.[7]

Funds were dedicated for the purchase and rehabilitation of "housing, including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings, and other buildings, and convert them into interim or permanent, long-term housing," according to the California Department of Housing and Community Development.[8]

The bulk of federal dollars were awarded for the renovation of motels, hotels, hostels, and other buildings, making the program, says the Department of Housing and Community Development, "extremely cost-effective and efficient." All federal Coronavirus Relief Funds were initially required to be spent by December 30, 2020, but Congress later extended the deadline one more year.[9,10]

Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed in September 2021 an additional $200 million from federal relief funds for Project Homekey. The Joint Legislative Budget Committee approved the governor's proposal within days.[11]

In September 2021, Newsom announced a $2.75 billion program expansion "to purchase and rehabilitate buildings – including hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings, tiny homes and other properties – and convert them into up to 14,000 more permanent, long-term housing units for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness." At that time, the governor's office said, "since its launch in 2020, Homekey has been the fastest, largest, most cost-effective addition of permanent housing in California history, successfully re-engineering the strategy to create more housing for people experiencing homelessness."[12]

The evidence does not support such a glowing review. Although Project Homekey has spent large sums, it has failed to reach its goals while, as measured by the numbers of homeless, the problem continues to worsen.

Project Homekey Has Not Stemmed the Rise in Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) maintains Point-in-Time (PIT) counts of the homeless population that, according to HUD, "is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January" of the respective years. Currently the data for 2022 is in the processing stage and HUD will not release the final data until 2023. Several localities, including eight of the ten counties with the largest homeless populations, have self-reported the preliminary data that will be incorporated into the national database.[13] These data indicate that the total number of homeless continued to grow in 2022 in six of the eight counties (Santa Clara, San Bernardino, San Diego, Riverside, Sacramento, and Alameda).[14] Consequently, it cannot be said that Project Homekey has reduced the total homelessness problem through 2022.

The number of unsheltered homeless has declined in four of the eight counties (Orange, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Riverside), which could be viewed as signs of progress, but even these results are less than they appear. Both Riverside and Santa Clara saw rises in their overall homeless populations indicating that the problem is not improving in these counties.

> "The PIT data through 2021 ... demonstrate that California has been experiencing a long-term rise in homelessness prior to the implementation of Project Homekey whereas homelessness was declining in the rest of the country."

Further, Sacramento's experience is likely the canary in the coal mine for Project Homekey. Despite spending almost $4,000 per room to house about 1,800 homeless persons under Project Roomkey, which was extended through March 2022,[15] Sacramento County's homeless population increased by two-thirds from 2019 to 2022, from 5,570 to almost 9,300, surpassing San Francisco's total.[16] But that might be an incomplete account, Dustin Luton, president of the board of directors of the American River Parkway Foundation, a non-profit "focused on active conservation of all 23 miles of the American River Parkway," suggested.

"The American River Parkway is ground zero for the homelessness crisis in Sacramento County. … Imagine what the count would have showed if the whole Parkway had been included," Luton said.[17]

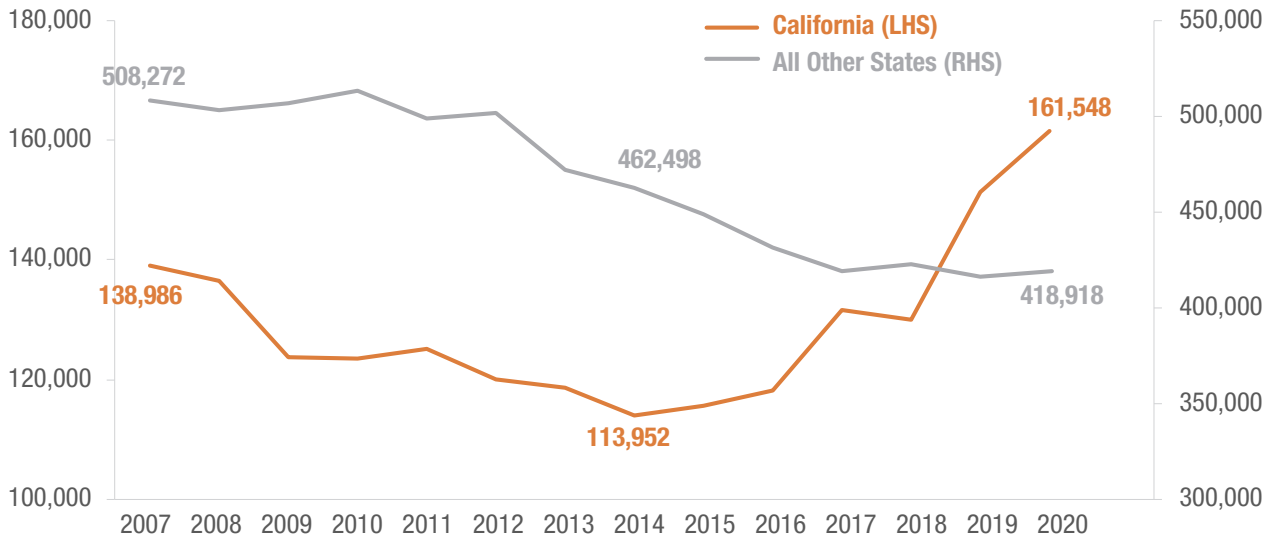
Sacramento County's homeless population was fewer than 2,700 as recently as 2015.[18]

As the reporting on the program summarized below demonstrate, the results thus far provide little indication that the modest improvements that can be gleaned from the preliminary data are sustainable.

The PIT data through 2021 (2020 for the unsheltered homeless because the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic prevented HUD from measuring the unsheltered homeless in 2021), demonstrate that California has been experiencing a long-term rise in homelessness prior to the implementation of Project Homekey whereas homelessness was declining in the rest of the country. This underperformance was not impacted by the implementation of Project Homekey. In other words, these programs have failed their primary goal of sustainably improving the homelessness crisis in the state. These failures are visualized in Figures 1 through 5.

Figure 1 presents the total number of people experiencing homelessness in California compared to the rest of the country. It illustrates that homelessness in California has been worsening since 2014 even though the problem was improving for the rest of the country.

FIGURE 1. TOTAL HOMELESSNESS: CALIFORNIA COMPARED TO OTHER 49 STATES, 2007–2020



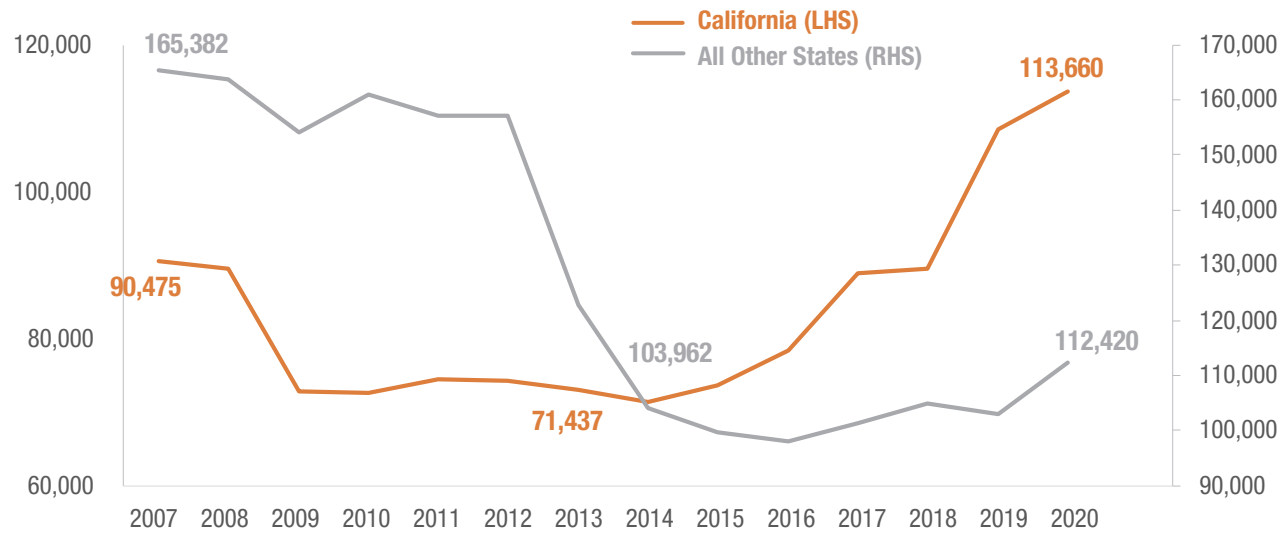
Source: HUD

When viewing these trends, it is important to recognize that Project Homekey essentially takes the same "Housing First" approach as California's previously unsuccessful policies. Housing First became California's official homelessness policy in 2016 with the passage of Senate Bill 1380. With the approval of Proposition HHH, Los Angeles voters gave a thumbs up to Housing First that same year, which authorized the city to issue $1.2 billion in bonds to support the construction of permanent housing for homeless people. As Figure 1 demonstrates, the implementation of the Housing First approach in California did not stem the growth in the state's homelessness crisis.

Figures 2 and 3 break down the homeless population into the unsheltered (Figure 2) and sheltered (Figure 3) populations. Taken together these figures demonstrate several important trends. First, California's crisis is driven by increases in unsheltered homeless and to a lesser extent, and not until 2019, increases in the sheltered homeless population.

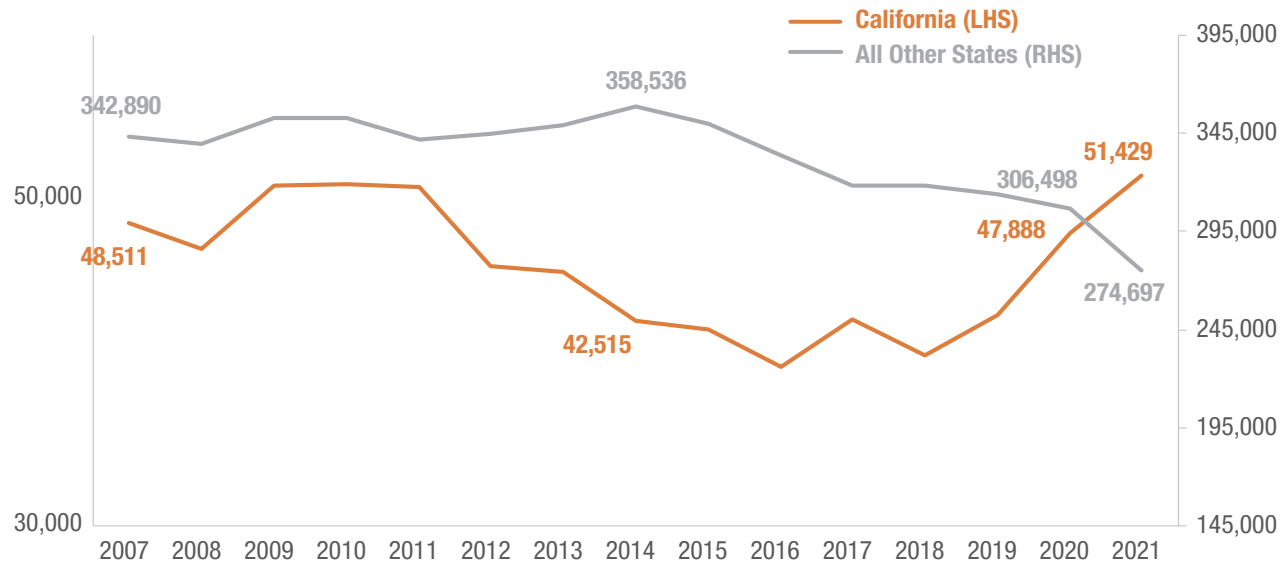
Second, the growth in the sheltered homeless population starting in 2019 did not have any appreciable impact on the trend growth of the unsheltered population. Instead, both types of homelessness – sheltered and unsheltered – continue to worsen through 2020. Importantly, while the COVID-19 pandemic prevented a count of the unsheltered population in 2021, the data from the sheltered population indicates that these troubling trends continued.

FIGURE 2. UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS: CALIFORNIA COMPARED TO OTHER 49 STATES, 2007–2020



Source: HUD

FIGURE 3. SHELTERED HOMELESSNESS: CALIFORNIA COMPARED TO OTHER 49 STATES, 2007–2021



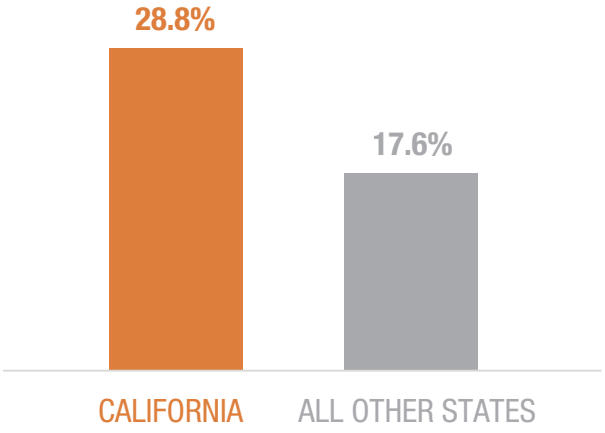
Source: HUD

Third, the unsheltered homelessness crisis is particularly acute in California. Whereas in the rest of the country most people experiencing homelessness are sheltered, in California the majority are unsheltered. In fact, California's sheltered homeless account for 14.5 percent of the total U.S. sheltered homeless population but California's unsheltered homeless account for 50.3 percent of the total U.S. unsheltered population. As the case studies discussed below further demonstrate, there is no evidence that Project Homekey has meaningfully altered these trends.

The failure of California's approach is more apparent once California's relatively stronger rate of economic growth is considered. Unadjusted for inflation, California's economy grew 28.8 percent between 2014 and 2020, which was significantly higher than the growth in the rest of the country, which was 17.6 percent. California's economic outperformance persisted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as well. In 2020, total economic activity in the rest of the country contracted a more severe 2.4 percent compared to a smaller reduction of 1.5 percent in California. California also bounced back stronger. In 2021, California's economy expanded 11.6 percent compared to a 9.8 percent expansion in nominal GDP - the total value of all goods and services sold in the economy not adjusted for inflation - for the rest of the country.

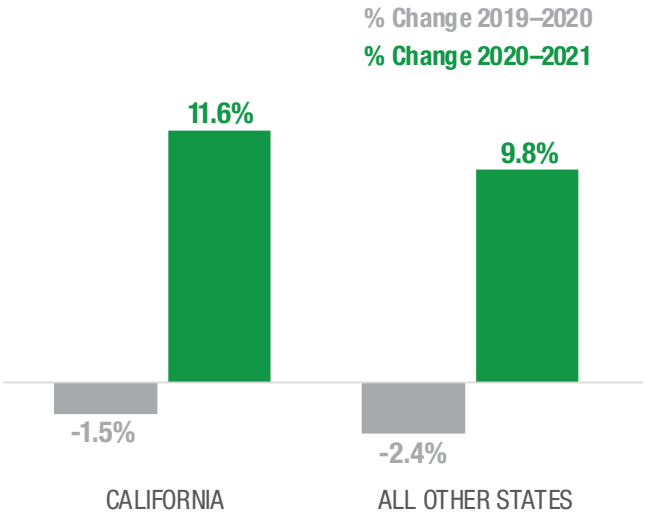
These growth discrepancies are important because a growing economy should reduce the number of homeless people. The growth in the homeless population in California relative to the decline in homelessness in the remaining states raises further questions regarding the efficacy of California's programs, which include Project Homekey.

FIGURE 4. PERCENTAGE CHANGE NOMINAL GDP, 2014–2020



Source: Author calculations based on data from the BEA

FIGURE 5. PERCENTAGE CHANGE NOMINAL GDP



Source: Author calculations based on data from the BEA

The documented performance of Project Roomkey/Homekey provides additional evidence that the program is an expensive disappointment.

Project Homekey Is Failing Los Angeles

Los Angeles, where roughly one-third of the state's more than 161,548 homeless are located, is the epicenter of California's crisis. Not surprisingly, Los Angeles' version of Project Roomkey "was even more ambitious" than the state plan, said KNOCK.LA. "The Los Angeles Homelessness Services Authority (LAHSA), a joint powers authority of L.A. City and L.A. County, set the goal of providing 15,000 rooms in L.A. County alone for vulnerable unhoused individuals," who are defined as those over 65, or those whose chronic health conditions would likely make the novel coronavirus a life-threatening event.[19]

As of late August 2020, those goals had not been met – only 4,177 rooms had been secured countywide, reported KNOCK.LA.[20] That turned out to be the high-water mark. By the end of June 2021, only 1,794 rooms of the 15,000 promised were occupied.[21]

Despite failing to live up to the standard the LAHSA set for the program, in February 2021 Project Roomkey was extended through the end of September of that year. It was extended again, through the end of 2021, as the end of the previous extension was reached. At its conclusion, just 9,118 had gone through the program, and only 2,474 of those were placed into permanent housing; 3,388 made it into interim housing, while about 900 chose to return to their lives on the streets.[22]

> "Even where the program successfully moves people into permanent shelter, Project Homekey's costs are excessive."

An evaluation by the Alameda County Office of Homeless Care and Coordination of the county's program said its success "should be celebrated," but further noted "it also came at a significant financial cost."[23]

"Project Roomkey is estimated to have cost about $260 per participant per night. This is many times higher than congregate shelter and in line with other service-intensive environments such as medical respite centers. Therefore, while the PRK [Project Roomkey] model may be more effective than congregate shelter at addressing homelessness, its cost could make it most viable as a short-term intervention, not a long-term solution for people experiencing homelessness."[24]

Even where the program successfully moves people into permanent shelter, Project Homekey's costs are excessive. When Governor Newsom was announcing an $18 million grant to Los Angeles County as part of Project Homekey, the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation said the county was paying far too much for Project Homekey units, such as $275,000 each for 20 rooms at one hotel and $330,000 for each per room for 39 rooms in two motels in Lancaster. "By comparison," Business Wire reports, "AHF paid an average of $102,000 per room for over 1,350 rooms in 12 SRO hotels and motels for its Healthy Housing Foundation housing program."[25]

That Project Homekey is financially unsustainable in Los Angeles should be unsurprising. Zoning laws and complex regulations inflate housing costs. Add in the additional regulatory complexity of administering Project Homekey and an excessively costly program is the inevitable result. The failure of Project Homekey to sustainably help a significant share of the homeless population should have been anticipated as well. Far too many of the homeless suffer from addiction and mental health problems and addressing these problems should be the top priority. These problems cannot be resolved efficiently, nor cost effectively, from a hotel room. The unexpected result is a costly program that poorly serves the city's homeless population.

Project Homekey Is Not Helping San Francisco

In its year-long "Broken Homes" investigation of sheltering the homeless, the *San Francisco Chronicle* found the city "spends millions of dollars to shelter its most vulnerable residents in dilapidated hotels," but "with little oversight or support, the results are disastrous." Reporters found "rodent infestation" so severe that one resident in a "run-down, century-old hotel" in the Tenderloin district "pitched a tent inside her room to keep the mice away." At one facility, residents threatening each other with knives, crowbars and guns is so common that sometimes police were called "to the building several times a day." Death has also been frequent, with at least nine people succumbing to drug overdoses through late April 2022.[26]

The *Chronicle* describes a "complex arrangement" in which "the city's Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, or HSH, pays nonprofit groups to provide rooms and aid to formerly homeless people in about 70 single-room-occupancy hotels, known as SROs, which the nonprofits generally lease from private landlords." The rooms "are the cornerstone of a $160 million program called permanent supportive housing, which is supposed to help people rebuild their lives after time on the streets."[27]

Over time, the city of San Francisco has been awarded tens of millions of dollars from Project Homekey, including $29.1 million in capital and operating costs to buy a 130-room hotel, $45 million to buy a 232-room hotel,[28] and $54.7 million in state funds that will help the city purchase a 160-room building in the SoMa district to house the homeless.[29] The city, however, has not shown that it is capable of effectively deploying the resources.

Even though San Francisco is slightly smaller than Jacksonville, Florida, the California city's homelessness budget, at $1.1 billion in fiscal year 2021–22, is nearly 80 percent of Jacksonville's entire city budget, UCLA economics professor Lee Ohanian has pointed out. "But despite this enormous spending," he continues, "homelessness and the attendant problems of drug abuse, crime, public health issues, and an overall deterioration in the quality of life, spiral further downwards each year." That $1.1 billion "is just the latest installment in San Francisco's constant failure to sensibly and humanely deal with an issue that it chronically misdiagnoses and mismanages about as much as is humanly possible."[30]

One of the principal reasons why San Francisco policies continue to fail to even make a slight improvement in homelessness "is that there is little or no accountability within the city's government to evaluate the efficacy of its spending," says Ohanian. In fact, some programs are so poorly managed that "some homeless people likely prefer living on the streets to the facilities that are being provided to them at enormously inflated costs to taxpayers."[31]

The city's record in caring for the residents in the 16 hotels housing the homeless is egregious:

- Placing the homeless in the hotels is supposed to be a process in which the residents develop enough stability to enter more independent housing. But of the 515 tracked by government after leaving permanent supportive housing, 21 percent returned to homelessness, 27 percent left for an "unknown destination," and a quarter died while still in the program, leaving "only about a quarter living in stable homes, mostly by moving in with friends or family or into another taxpayer-subsidized building."[32]
- At least 166 residents fatally overdosed in city-funded hotels in 2020 and 2021," the *Chronicle* reports, a total of "14% of all confirmed overdose deaths in San Francisco, though the buildings housed less than 1 percent of the city's population."[33]

- In the years since the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing was created in 2016, homelessness in San Francisco has grown by 56 percent, according to data that was exclusively obtained by the *Chronicle.*[34]
- Violence and property damage are widespread. "Residents have threatened to kill staff members, chased them with metal pipes" and started fires inside of rooms. "Much of the instability," says the *Chronicle,* "stems from a small group of tenants who do not receive the support they need."[35]
- Case managers who aid the residents have at times in recent years supported as many as 85 tenants apiece. That's five times higher than federal recommendations.[36]

"It is hard to imagine a more inhumane outcome than watching the train wreck of homelessness evolve in San Francisco," says Ohanian, "as the city spends billions on flawed policies that facilitate drug abuse and on badly designed systems to carry out those policies."[37]

Project Homekey Is Similarly Ineffective in Rest of the Bay Area

In San Jose, "The rejection of the two Project Homekey applications has set the city back," according to media reports. "We have a lot of ambitious goals to try and hit and we need to hit those numbers," said Councilmember Raul Peralez. "But the reality is that getting these projects approved is very difficult."[38]

Using the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Marin County group, the South Eliseo Neighborhood Alliance, has "filed a legal action" against "plans for an apartment building for homeless people in Larkspur." The project, "vehemently opposed by many neighbors," is intended to "house 43 to 50 chronically homeless people in a former skilled nursing center."[39]

As the *San Jose Mercury News* reported:[40]

- Plans for converting a motel "near the San Jose airport into permanent housing have stopped in their tracks after a state lawmaker accused the city of proposing rents that would displace the very people it's supposed to be helping."
- Alameda County plans for a pair of hotels have "stalled because officials haven't found nonprofit developers and service providers to take on the projects."
- In the North Bay, "a developer is scrambling to come up with money for extensive renovations on the buildings it bought."

"A look at some of the Bay Area's original Homekey projects shows the challenges that came with the innovative model," says the newspaper.[41]

Claiming Success Does Not Make It So

Despite the trends in the HUD homeless data and the reports of Project Homekey's failings reviewed above, Governor Newsom claimed in his 2022 State of the State address that "we've moved a record 58,000 people off the streets since the beginning of the pandemic, we recognize, we have more to do – particularly to address what's happening on our sidewalks, reaching people who need the help the most."[42]

His claim of 58,000 people was directly fact-checked by CalMatters, which found the real number taken off the streets through Homekey was, not surprising, much smaller.[43] According to CalMatters factcheckers, only about one-fifth of those housed by Project Roomkey are now in permanent housing:[44]

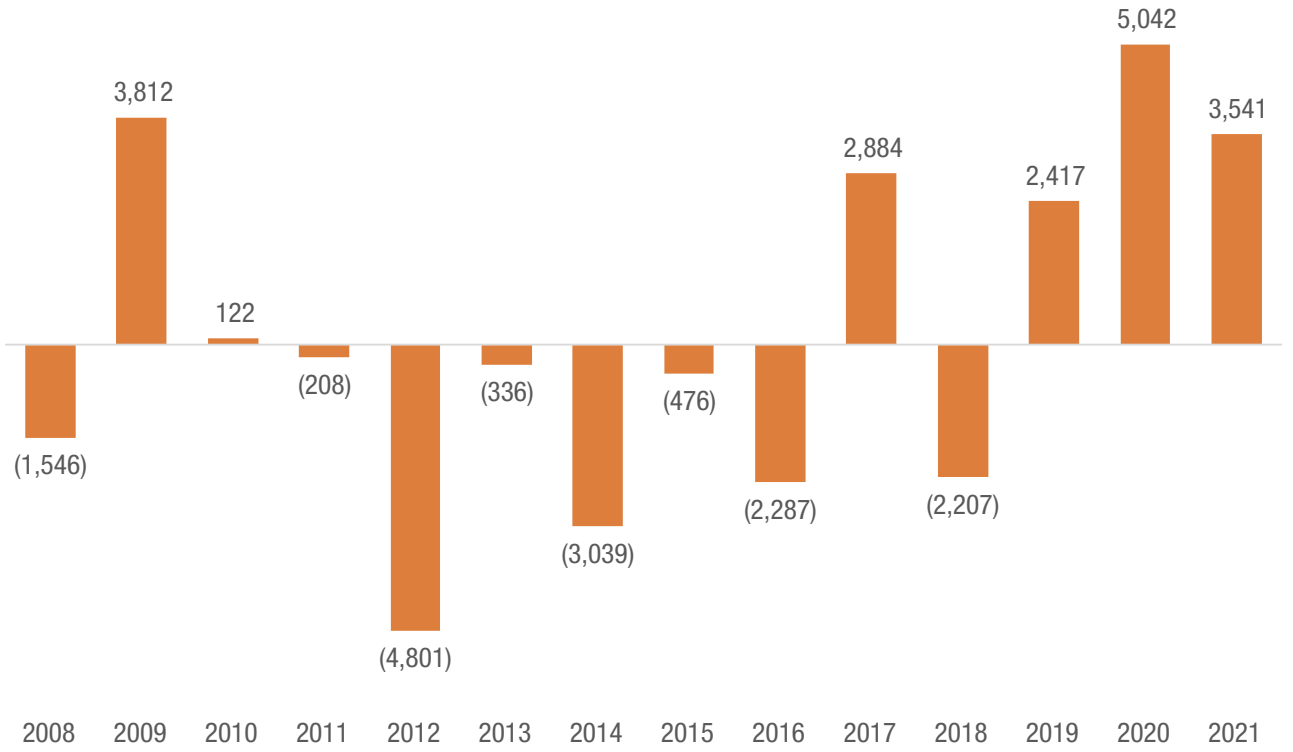
> The actual number of people out of the streets and in housing via the governor's signature Project Homekey thus far is about 8,000, although the program – which turned dilapidated hotels and motels across the state *into permanent ho*using with wraparound services – is expanding to bring on another 12,000 units in the coming years using $2.75 billion in last year's budget.
>
> His emergency Project Roomkey *program, which sheltered another 50,000 people, has mostly wound down. Only about a fifth of them are now in permanent housing.*[45]

The governor's claim also defies the HUD data. Figure 6 presents the change in the number of sheltered homeless people in California between 2008 and 2021. The increase in the number of sheltered homeless in 2021 was 3,541 – a fraction of the governor's claim of 58,000 people.

Further, the claim of 58,000 people moved off the streets defies logic. This figure equals 51 percent of the total unsheltered people in the state as of 2020. Therefore, for the governor's claim to be correct, in addition to the measured increase in the sheltered homeless population, an additional 48 percent of the unsheltered population would have been moved to shelters and then an equivalent number would have been moved from shelters to permanent housing. The 2022 preliminary data from eight of the ten counties with the largest homeless populations indicate that such a scenario is detached from reality. Consequently, the governor's estimates are simply inaccurate.

> "According to CalMatters factcheckers, only about one-fifth of those housed by Project Roomkey are now in permanent housing."

FIGURE 6. CHANGE IN CALIFORNIA'S SHELTERED HOMELESS POPULATION, 2008 – 2021



Source: Author calculations based on HUD data

Simply put, the initial results from the Project Homekey program are disappointing. The state is throwing billions of dollars at the problem but with little to show for it.

Los Angeles' Measure HHH Fails to Deliver Results

The ineffective results from Project Homekey should not have been unexpected based on California's results from previous Housing First programs. One glaring example is Measure HHH, approved by more than 77 percent of the voters in the city of Los Angeles during the 2016 General Election. A "yes" vote favored the "issuing $1.2 billion in bonds to fund housing for homeless people and people at risk of becoming homeless and to fund facilities that provide mental health care, addiction treatment, and other services." The goal is "to provide safe, clean affordable housing for the homeless and for those in danger of becoming homeless."[46] Officials have estimated that total debt service cost for the loan, including principal and interest, will reach $1.893 billion. They further "estimated the average property tax rate required to repay these bonds to be $9.64 per $100,000 in assessed property value."[47]

Measure HHH, while not officially part of Project Homekey, uses the same Housing First approach to address the problem. Given that the data on Project Homekey is limited, Measure HHH provides additional evidence that government efforts to solve homelessness based on the Housing First philosophy typically fall short of their objectives. Some have even mocked the measure, calling it "Proposition HaHaHa."[48]

In December 2021, Los Angeles Controller Ron Galperin issued a review of Measure HHH's performance over its first five years. In it, he said that problems overshadow progress.[49]

"Over the past year HHH per-unit costs in the primary pipeline continue to climb to staggering heights," Galperin reported. **"For projects in construction, the average per-unit cost increased from $531,000 in 2020 to $596,846 in 2021. Fourteen percent of the units in construction exceed $700,000 per unit, and one project in pre-development is estimated to cost nearly $837,000 per unit"** (Emphasis Galperin's), $100,000 more per unit than the most expensive project in 2020.[50]

"It is," he continued, "indisputable that higher overall per-unit costs have contributed to project delays, leaving fewer units available in a timely manner. The City must find a way to bring down the overall per-unit cost of developing homeless housing now and in the future."[51]

"Los Angeles Controller Ron Galperin issued a review of Measure HHH's performance over its first five years. In it, he said that problems overshadow progress."

The review also noted that while the goal is to develop 10,000 units in 10 years, only 1,142 units had been completed in five years. Another 4,205 units were under construction and 1,880 in pre-development. By January 2023, fewer than half will be completed.[52]

Meanwhile, in the years since HHH was passed, the city's homeless population has increased by 45 percent. It "simply isn't working," says PRI fellow M. Nolan Gray, a professional city planner and UCLA housing researcher.[53]

"The fundamental problem that Los Angeles faces in dealing with homelessness is that it continues to address the issue as a housing crisis and not a human one involving drug addiction and mental illness," writes Soledad Ursua, a finance professional who is also a board member of the Venice Neighborhood Council.[54]

Rather than reallocate HHH funds or use remaining dollars "to develop interim housing facilities and emergency-shelter options instead of permanent supportive housing, which is too expensive and takes too long to build," and has been suggested by Galperin, officials have instead continued "to ignore Los Angeles's rampant drug addiction and mental illness." They have failed "to understand that simply providing housing units will never eliminate homelessness, no matter how many emergencies they declare or how many dollars they spend."[55]

CARE Court Proposal Shows Potential

Thankfully, there are some optimistic signs. In March 2022, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed "a new framework to get people with mental health and substance use disorders the support and care they need." Called CARE (Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment) Court, it "is aimed at helping the thousands of Californians who are suffering from untreated mental health and substance use disorders leading to homelessness, incarceration or worse."[56]

From the administration's fact sheet:

> CARE Court connects a person struggling with untreated mental illness – and often also substance use challenges – with a court-ordered Care Plan for up to 24 months. Each plan is managed by a care team in the community and can include clinically prescribed, individualized interventions with several supportive services, medication, and a housing plan. The client-centered approach also includes a public defender and supporter to help make self-directed care decisions in addition to their full clinical team.[57]

The idea is based "on the evidence that many people can stabilize, begin healing, and exit homelessness in less restrictive, community-based care settings." A date with the court "can be initiated by family, county and community-based social services, behavioral health providers, or first responders."[58]

Though it has some opposition because of its involuntary nature and "coerced treatment, enforced by an expanded judicial infrastructure,"[59] the Senate voted 38-0 in May 2022 for Senate Bill 1338, which includes provisions for CARE Court.[60] The court will certainly end up in a court somewhere itself.[61] But as a practical application, the required institutionalization of those suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness has merit.

> "In March 2022, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed 'a new framework to get people with mental health and substance use disorders the support and care they need.'"

As Christopher Rufo noted, "following the mass closure of state hospitals and the establishment of a legal regime that dramatically restricted involuntary commitments, we have established an 'invisible asylum,'" which is made up of three primary institutions: the street, the jail, and the emergency room. "In slaying the old monster of the state asylums, we created a new monster in its shadow," one that has the appearance of freedom yet condemns a multitude of the mentally ill to "a life of misery" on the street.[62]

Conclusion/Recommendations

It is unsurprising that Project Homekey has underperformed expectations. Based on the Housing First philosophy, it fails to fully diagnose the causal factors driving California's homelessness crisis; therefore, it provides an incomplete approach to addressing the problem. Worsening these results, its implementation has been inefficient and wasteful. As a result, the program's costs per homeless person sustainably housed has been excessively expensive.

Further, while based on early data, the program has not altered the trend of rising homeless in the state. This failure is likely compounded by the likelihood that, as a Cicero Institute study noted, programs based on the Housing First philosophy appear "to attract more people from outside the homeless system, or keeps them in the homelessness system, because they are drawn to the promise of a permanent and usually rent-free room."[63]

Rather than throwing billions of dollars toward the failed Homekey strategy, there are more effective policies that California should consider, many of which we explored in detail in the Pacific Research Institute book *No Way Home* (Encounter Books, 2021). These policies begin with the recognition that California's homelessness crisis requires multi-faceted solutions.

The first facet of a comprehensive strategy would be targeted toward aiding the homeless who struggle with mental health and addiction. Helping this population requires programs that directly address these causal issues. Priority number one is to implement policies that focus on providing shelter and effective mental health treatment. Given the state's poor track record running these programs, ideally the state would leverage the successful private nonprofit organizations that efficiently address the root causes of homelessness. Howard Husock of the Manhattan Institute has suggested a "back-to-the-future approach," in which state mental hospitals are "dedicated to serving this particular population."[64]

> "To help facilitate treatment, California should use services, such as homeless dayrooms, to connect people with the appropriate treatment options."

To help facilitate treatment, California should use services, such as homeless dayrooms, to connect people with the appropriate treatment options. The state should also broadly implement homeless courts that can turn criminal infractions into opportunities to "sentence" mentally ill people experiencing homeless to treatment rather than incarceration.

The second facet should better leverage public resources, such as local law enforcement, to help connect homeless people with the resources and private nonprofits that can help. Law enforcement can also successfully reunite the homeless with their families or those who had previously provided them services, as Santa Monica, Santa Barbara, and Anaheim have demonstrated.[65]

The third facet should address the policies helping to drive the problems. These include reforming zoning laws, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and other regulations to promote greater housing supply and improved housing affordability across the state. The state should also actively discourage homeless encampments

(which ought to be replaced with humane bridge shelter in which private organizations and government agencies work together to provide temporary housing, often tents), enforce laws against theft that include repealing initiatives such as Proposition 47, and promote a high quality-of-life standard for all neighborhoods that includes eliminating the open-air drug markets and disregard for laws big and small.

California cannot possibly build enough housing for the homeless – often at costs that exceed $700,000 a unit, and in Los Angeles as much as much as $837,000 – without resolving the social problems that have caused so many people to be on the streets nor without resolving the underlying financial and regulatory issues that make housing so expensive. A comprehensive approach that focuses on the root causes and leverages the private sector to deliver services more efficiently is the best path to alleviate the crisis.

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Dr. Winegarden is also the Principal of an economic advisory firm that advises clients on the economic, business, and investment implications from changes in broader macroeconomic trends and government policies. Clients have included Fortune 500 companies, financial organizations, small businesses, and trade associations. Previously, Dr. Winegarden worked as a business economist in Hong Kong and New York City; and a policy economist for policy and trade associations in Washington D.C. Dr. Winegarden received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Economics from George Mason University.

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He is the author of *Living in Fear in California,* a book that explores well-meaning changes to California's public safety laws enacted in recent years that have undermined safe communities, and offers reforms that strike a balance between the state's obligation to crime victims and the rights of the accused and convicted.

In 2017, he wrote *Unaffordable: How Government Made California's Housing Shortage a Crisis and How Free Market Ideas Can Restore Affordability and Supply*, an issue brief on California's housing crisis which won bipartisan praise.

His 2018 brief on poverty in California, *Good Intentions: How California's Anti-Poverty Programs Aren't Delivering and How the Private Sector Can Lift More People Out of Poverty,* garnered national attention for his *Los Angeles Times* op-ed asking, "Why is liberal California the poverty capital of America?"

Jackson is a leading commentator on California's growing homeless crisis. In 2019, he co-authored (with Dr. Wayne Winegarden) a brief on San Francisco's homeless crisis, which was presented to Mayor London Breed's administration.

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Before coming to PRI, Jackson spent 18 years writing editorials on domestic and foreign policy for *Investor's Business Daily* (IBD) and three years as the assistant director of public affairs for the American Legislative Exchange Council. He has written for the American Media Institute and Real Clear Investigations and edited "The Growth Manifesto" for the Committee to Unleash Prosperity.

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About PRI

The Pacific Research Institute (PRI) champions freedom, opportunity, and personal responsibility by advancing free-market policy solutions. It provides practical solutions for the policy issues that impact the daily lives of all Americans, and demonstrates why the free market is more effective than the government at providing the important results we all seek: good schools, quality health care, a clean environment, and a robust economy.

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Working Together
in solving Homelessness without compromising on Safety

Agenda (4/4/23)

- **Our Current State**: Division between County/City and Residents
- **Working Together**: Understanding the life cycle of homelessness and how we can work together
- **Residents' Recommendation** for Lawrence/Benton Site



Our Current State

Our Current State: Supportive Housing & Officials
Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway

Supportive Housing & officials' Viewpoint

- **Multiple Efforts** to identify other SC properties
- This site is an **underutilized parcel**
- County **does not own any other property** in the city of Santa Clara (for interim housing)
- **Proximity** to transit, grocery and medical

Knee-jerk reactions from communities **NIMBY's** Housing First **Fear of Unknown**

Low entry barrier does not mean NO entry barrier

Homeless are already here **Drugs** are a bigger problem **in High Schools**

There is **no adverse impact to safety** due to low entry barrier

No adverse impact to assessed property values due to supportive housing

There is no data suggesting homeless folks are getting hit by cars on streets

20% of Adult population has some mental illness, it is only ~30% more

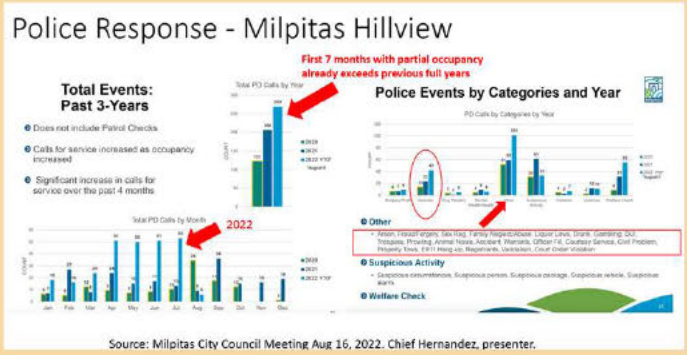
Our Current State: Santa Clara Residents (>80% per poll)

Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway

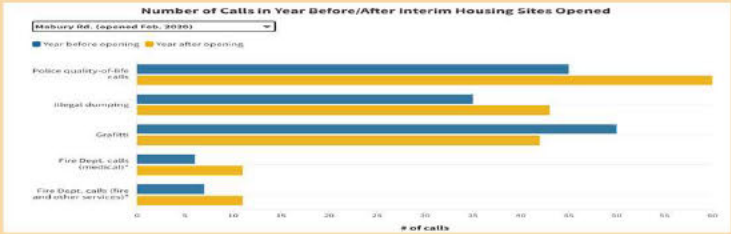
Santa Clara Residents' Viewpoint

HOMELESS POPULATION BY JURISDICTION AND SHELTER STATUS

JURISDICTION	UNSHELTERED		SHELTERED		TOTAL		'19-'22
	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022	% CHANGE
Total Incorporated	7,652	7,454	1,594	2,230	9,246	9,684	5%
City of Campbell	74	216	0	0	74	216	191%
City of Cupertino	159	102	0	0	159	102	-36%
City of Gilroy	345	606	359	208	704	814	16%
City of Los Altos	76	65	0	0	76	65	-14%
City of Los Altos Hills	2	0	0	0	2	0	*
Town of Los Gatos	16	58	0	0	16	58	*
City of Milpitas	125	249	0	25	125	274	119%
City of Monte Sereno	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
City of Morgan Hill	114	60	0	0	114	60	-47%
City of Mountain View	574	206	32	140	606	346	-43%
City of Palo Alto	299	263	14	11	313	274	-12%
City of San José	5,117	4,975	980	1,675	6,097	6,650	8%
City of Santa Clara	264	375	62	65	326	440	35%
City of Saratoga	10	0	0	0	10	0	*
City of Sunnyvale	477	279	147	106	624	385	-38%
Total Unincorporated	270	254	89	27	359	281	-22%
Confidential Location	NA	NA	101	63	101	63	-38%
Total	7,922	7,708	1,784	2,320	9,706	10,028	3%



Source: Milpitas City Council Meeting Aug 16, 2022. Chief Hernandez, presenter.



Several adjoining cities have decreased homelessness without such shelters while Santa Clara, Milpitas and San Jose have seen increases in last 3 years despite several projects; Crime rate increases were significant in some of the sites

Our elected officials are not listening to us

Low Entry Barrier is a **major concern for safety**

Tax Dollars are being misused

Santa Clara is becoming the **transient hub** for homeless

Middle Class cities are being targeted to tackle homelessness from more affluent cities

Risk of increased **drug related activities**

Homeless folks interviewed by residents did not want to go any shelter due to safety concerns

Those with **substance abuse issue** or certain mental illness would have a **high risk in crossing Lawrence Expressway**

We see news articles where folks in some of the shelters express a fear of their safety

Property Values will decrease – we have mortgages!

Ziploc bags with drugs found near some other shelter raising concerns around drug use

Neighborhoods will be less walkable

Residents concerned that folks not getting extensions or permanent housing may start to squat in the neighborhood

Some residents **had personal experience of unsafe encounters** with a section of homeless population with substance abuse or mental illness where they felt very unsafe

Working Together

Working Together: Background and facts

The homelessness crisis seems to be getting worse despite a lot of money getting pumped and specific programs showing positive results …

The state's Interagency Council on Homelessness, a state body tasked with overseeing the state's homelessness strategy and divvying up funding to local governments, issued a report detailing just how much the state has spent on the crisis between 2018 and 2021 — and what it's gotten in return.

The answer to those questions, according to the report: The state has spent nearly $10 billion and provided services to more than 571,000 people, each year helping more people than the last.

And despite all that, at the end of year three, the majority of those more than half a million Californians still didn't end up with a roof over their heads. The number of unsheltered Californians continues to swell.

"One of the largest challenges facing the state is the inflow of new people into homelessness, even as efforts to help people experiencing homelessness expand," the report reads.

HOMELESS POPULATION BY JURISDICTION AND SHELTER STATUS

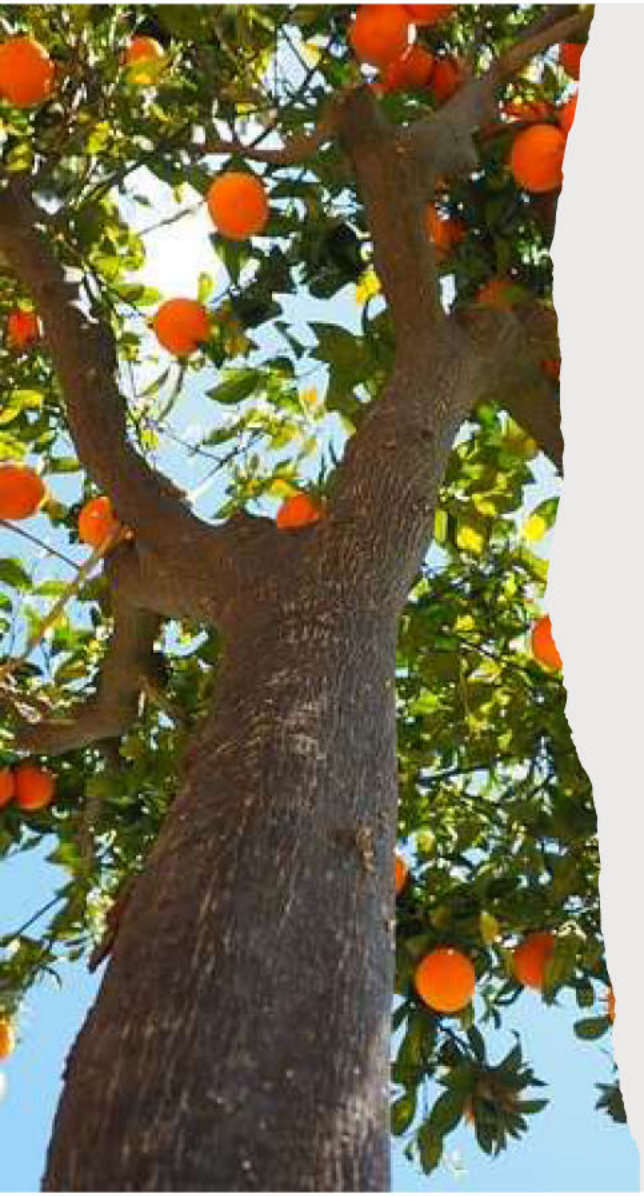
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City of Campbell	74	216	0	0	74	216	191%
City of Cupertino	159	102	0	0	159	102	-36%
City of Gilroy	345	606	359	208	704	814	16%
City of Los Altos	76	65	0	0	76	65	-14%
City of Los Altos Hills	2	0	0	0	2	0	*
Town of Los Gatos	16	58	0	0	16	58	*
City of Milpitas	125	249	0	25	125	274	119%
City of Monte Sereno	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
City of Morgan Hill	114	60	0	0	114	60	-47%
City of Mountain View	574	206	32	140	606	346	-43%
City of Palo Alto	299	263	14	11	313	274	-12%
City of San José	5,117	4,975	980	1,675	6,097	6,650	8%
City of Santa Clara	264	375	62	65	326	440	35%
City of Saratoga	10	0	0	0	10	0	*
City of Sunnyvale	477	279	147	106	624	385	-38%
Total Unincorporated	270	254	89	27	359	281	-22%
Confidential Locations	NA	NA	101	63	101	63	-38%
Total	7,922	7,708	1,784	2,320	9,706	10,028	3%

Diversity in health conditions within homeless population, requiring different approaches for rehabilitation (beyond housing)



Insight into preventive measures for homelessness based on survey within homeless population

When asked what might have prevented them from becoming homeless, the top answers among survey respondents were rent/mortgage assistance (reported by 34% of respondents), followed by employment assistance (28%), and alcohol/drug counseling (28%).



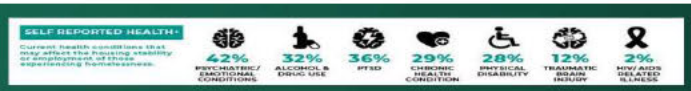
Working Together: Location Matters

- Santa Clara has great soil and weather for citrus fruit trees.
- If one has space in their backyard, and loves to nurture, an orange tree would be a great addition.
- However, if one is forced to accept the gift of a mango tree, even the best nurturing may not work as our soil and climate is not equatorial potentially affecting a stunted growth or even death of the mango tree.
- Understanding which backyard is suited for which tree is quite important.
- Location Matters.



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Working Together: Different Needs*



42% PSYCHIATRIC/ EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS

Rehabilitation First–> Training –> Job Assistance –> Permanent Housing

32% ALCOHOL & DRUG USE

Rehabilitation First–> Training –> Job Assistance –> Permanent Housing

28% PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Interim Housing First –> Training –> Job Assistance –> Permanent Housing

*For Illustration Purposes

Working Together: Lifecycle approach*

SELF REPORTED HEALTH+

Current health conditions that may affect the housing stability or employment of those experiencing homelessness.



Legal US Residents with a job/employment

Grouping	NO Substance Abuse OR Criminal Record OR Sex Offense				Substance Abuse OR Criminal Record OR Sex Offense			
	Rehabilitation	Job Training	Job Assistance	Location	Rehabilitation	Job Training	Job Assistance	Location
Families with Kids	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Close to Schools & Job	Required/Suggested	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	(Close to) Rehabilitation Center
Couples without kids	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Close to Job	Required/Suggested	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	(Close to) Rehabilitation Center
Single Adults	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Close to Job	Required/Suggested	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	(Close to) Rehabilitation Center
Physical Disability	Possible	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Close to Job & Services	Required/Suggested	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	(Close to) Rehabilitation Center
Chronic Health	Possible	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Close to Job & Medical	Required/Suggested	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	(Close to) Rehabilitation Center

Legal US Residents without a job/employment

Grouping	NO Substance Abuse OR Criminal Record OR Sex Offense				Substance Abuse OR Criminal Record OR Sex Offense			
	Rehabilitation	Job Training	Job Assistance	Location	Rehabilitation	Job Training	Job Assistance	Location
Families with Kids	Not Applicable	May be	Required/Suggested	Close to Schools & Job Assistance Services	Required/Suggested	May be	Required/Suggested	(Close to) Rehabilitation Center
Couples without kids	Not Applicable	May be	Required/Suggested	Close to Job Assistance Services	Required/Suggested	May be	Required/Suggested	(Close to) Rehabilitation Center
Single Adults	Not Applicable	May be	Required/Suggested	Close to Job Assistance Services	Required/Suggested	May be	Required/Suggested	(Close to) Rehabilitation Center
Physical Disability	Possible	May be	Not Applicable	Close to Job & Services	Required/Suggested	May be	Required/Suggested	(Close to) Rehabilitation Center
Chronic Health	Possible	May be	Not Applicable	Close to Job & Medical	Required/Suggested	May be	Required/Suggested	(Close to) Rehabilitation Center

*For Illustration Purposes: It would be ideal to have residents vote which of these categories would they be willing to support and ensure screening is never compromised

Residents’ Recommendation

Recommendation: Prevention



#	Top Obstacles for Permanent Housing
1	Affordability of Rent (69%)
2	Lack of Job/Income (55%)
3	Lack of available housing(28%)

Focusing on families with jobs, without substance abuse or criminal records, through "rent to own" housing approach can help them avoid falling into homelessness void. This approach tackles two of the biggest obstacles for permanent housing and ranks highest as preventive measure in 2022 PIT report.

#	Top Preventive Methods
1	Rent/Mortgage Assistance (34%)
2	Employment Assistance (28%)
3	Alcohol/Drug Counseling (28%)

- Rent To Own

Prevent families from a homeless future

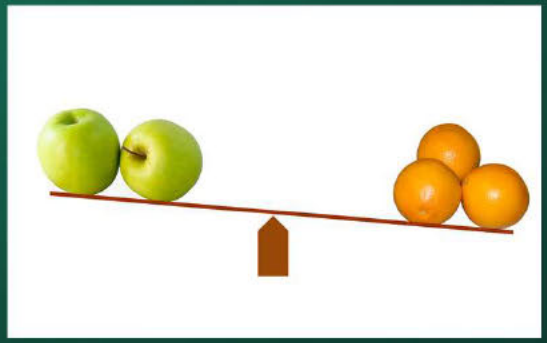
Permanent Neighbors

- Uplift Families
- Uplift Communities

- Eliminate protests
- Productive Citizens
- Reduced Operation Costs (less taxes)

Happy Residents

Comparison between options (For Lawrence/Benton Site)



	Interim/Supportive Housing for Family, Singles & Couples (Some with Substance Abuse, Serious Mental Illness or Criminal Records)	Permanent "Rent to Own" Housing for Family
Pros	Allows broader demographics including the highest population amongst homeless (singles)	No adverse impact to safety (real or perceived) to residents
		No adverse impact to property values (real or perceived) of residents
		Proactive approach that could help stem the inflow of homeless by 34%
		Minimizes Operational Costs (might even generate revenue)
		Building/Structure would remind residents how their voices were heard by their representatives and how they together uplifted this neighborhood [Feeling of Victory]
Cons	Adverse impact to safety to residents	Very specific to prevention of homelessness in families
	Adverse impact to property values of residents	
	Mainly reactive with housing first approach (doesn't address the root causes)	
	Treats all locations as similar (based on proximity to VTA, grocery, hospital etc.)	
	High Operation Costs – sometimes requiring compromises on services	
	If crime rate increases, tax paying residents would start to move out with their families and it may become difficult to attract families with kids in this area	
	Building/Structure would remind residents how their voices were unheard or not respected [Feeling of Loss]	



Thank You!

References

- The country is watching (https://khn.org/news/article/california-homeless-crisis-governor-gavin-newsom-political-future)
- Project Homekey (https://osh.sccgov.org/project-homekey-scc)
- 2022 PIT Report Santa Clara County (https://osh.sccgov.org/sites/g/files/exjcpb671/files/documents/2022%20PIT%20Report%20Santa%20Clara%20County.pdf)
- California Spending on Homelessness (3 years) – Feb 2023 (https://calmatters.org/homelessness-2/2023/02/california-homelessness-spending-report)
- LifeMoves Mountain View article (https://calmatters.org/homelessness-2/2023/02/california-homelessness-spending-report)
- ASHADEEP: Rehabilitation of homeless with mental illness (https://www.ashadeepindia.org/rehabilitation-of-homeless-persons-with-mental-illness)
- Addiction and Homelessness (https://socalsunrise.com/addiction-and-homelessness)

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

Subject: [Please Read] Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 11:21:18 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California. I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a "low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.

1. Safety & Security (of residents): The residents, including **me and my family (daughters 7 and 1), feel unsafe** and are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on the KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.

- What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
- If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?
- **There are 15 schools within a 1.5 mile radius to this proposed location - has this been considered at all?** My consult with a registered Social Worker also expressed concerns on this proposal.

2. Safety & Security (of clients): The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially
get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:

- **Why are we placing these clients across from a liquor store and 7-11 when we know a good percentage of them suffer from past alcohol abuse?**
- How do we protect the clients from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
- Why does this location NOT offer any nearby public transport or commercial working opportunities?

3. Budget: Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)? How will the city fund all the increased incidents anticipated from this project and where will the clients go after their 6 months

maximum stay?

4. Screening: The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-

- Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
- Put Families first
- Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
- People who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT
- allowed
- Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks
- Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here. **I'd request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society.** With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Connie Chou, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: A mom and santa clara resident strongly oppose to the homeless project at Benton/Lawrence location
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:05:32 AM

I'm a mom living in Santa Clara, my daughter is 2 years old, she will also go to the preschools around Benton street area, it's called stratford preschool, she will play in the area before and after school. I strongly oppose the shelter plan at Benton and Lawrence, for my daughter, for my family, for my neighbors. it would be a big threat for young kids, for the whole community, please hear our voice and take care the community members.
if you are a parent, for sure you want a safe environment for your kid to grow up. Are you a parent or a future parent? Please help protect the kids, they are the country's future, thanks.

--

Best regards,
Dan Zhao

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Subject: Action Needed: Please Review Findings on Benton Project and Bay Area Homeless Shelter
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 8:05:20 AM

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

The discussion surrounding the Benton project has continued for nearly two months, and recently, more data and news articles have emerged revealing serious issues with existing Bay Area homeless shelters. The information raises doubts about the reliability of promises made by the county, builders, and management/operation companies. I implore you to thoroughly review the data and resources provided at the end of this email.

Upon examining the data, it becomes evident that the Benton project is unsuitable for its location, Santa Clara, and its intended purpose. For example:

- The permanent supportive housing at 1000 Hillview Ct, Milpitas, has experienced striking crime statistics, with total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022. The average police service time is close to 50 hours per month, and crimes include assault, drug-related offenses, burglary, rape, sex offender incidents, stolen vehicles, and other suspicious circumstances. Mayor Carmen and Councilmember Chua challenged the county's admission criteria, claiming that the screening process was not working and problematic tenants and drug addictions were not being removed. Milpitas has asked the County for additional police officers to patrol the site, yet to receive any responses.
- LifeMoves' Mountain View at 2566 Leghorn St, opened at the end of 2020, has seen police calls rise from 3 in 2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022. This site has also failed in its mission to assist the homeless. With only 26% of clients placed in permanent housing, disqualified management and staffing (including staff under arrest warrant for physical assault), and a lack of specialized housing service, LifeMoves Mountain View has the second-lowest success rate in the county.
- LifeMoves' Palo Alto project has seen its cost estimate soar from $17 million to $34.4 million within just a year of approval. To cut costs, LifeMoves is removing 24/7 security and supportive services and decreasing family spaces. The City of Palo Alto is facing a $6 million funding gap, which only covers construction costs and does not account for the rising operational costs that will increase year after year.

While you may argue that these shelters differ from the proposed Benton project, the fact remains that each site faces problems. This suggests that the current model is fundamentally flawed and should not be replicated further. I urge you to consider these concerns and rethink

the Benton project's viability.

Regards,

Howard

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: As a local resident, I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence interim housing
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:00:48 PM

As a local resident, I live less than 1.5 miles of the pumpkin patch of Benton/ Lawrence for more than 5 years.
I strongly oppose to build the interim housing in Benton/Lawrence, this is not a right location for the neighborhood as well as for the unhoused people who will live there.
Please re-consider another location in non-residential area.
Thanks
Kate Cao

--

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Benton / Lawrence Shelter
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:13:30 AM

Hello,

I have resided in the city of Santa Clara for over 40 years, and despite never having contacted an elected council member before, I now feel compelled to do so. My strong opposition to the Benton/Lawrence shelter stems from its location. The proposed site is within walking distance from my home, and I am concerned about the safety of my 13 and 10-year-old children. As the shelter is intended for adults, not families, who may have issues with drug and mental abuse, I believe that it is inappropriate for it to be located in a residential area. There are other Lifemoves shelters, such as Mt. View, located in commercial areas, so I question why the county has proposed this location. This is not fair to Santa Clara residents who wish to raise their families in safe and prosperous neighborhoods. Therefore, I urge you to vote against this proposal.

Gaby Gemetti

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Benton project - Request for future public hearings
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:36:09 AM

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns on the Benton Project and the recent public hearings.

I am extremely disappointed that some supporters of the Benton project who do not live in the neighborhood were portrayed as members of the local community then asked to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Sincerely,
Wu Wen

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Benton project
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:31:42 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Thanks.
Jacob

From: Safe Santa Clara
To: [redacted]
Subject: Benton Shelter - First Open Letter
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:26:04 PM

Mayor Gilmore, Santa Clara Councilmembers, County Supervisors:

Safe Santa Clara County is a grassroots association of residents from across Santa Clara. Our aim is to promote livable cities and neighborhoods which work for all of our residents.

Members of our association strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. We believe this development is wrong for Santa Clara, wrong for the Benton location specifically, and also wrong for its intended patrons. **We urge the City Council to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible.**

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this shelter for "*the more challenging elements of the population*" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. **This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences.** We believe that there are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. **The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed**. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. It has a devastating impact on the safety and security, economic growth and public health of the affected neighborhoods and the wider Santa Clara community.

We are deeply disappointed and outraged about the misleading communication from county officials, LifeMoves, and city councilmembers regarding the proposed shelter. In the first outreach meeting, officials from the county and LifeMoves showed an apparent lack of knowledge about how many schools and other child facilities were located near the Benton location. In the 2nd meeting, Ms. Consuelo Hernandez claimed there were only four schools located within 1.5 miles of the shelter, which is still incorrect. **The correct number is 15, and will go much higher if we include daycares and after-school programs.** This grossly inaccurate information demonstrates the officials' ignorance of the safety and well-being of the community, as well as the poor quality of their work.

Furthermore, Ms. Consuelo Hernandez attempted to use the Branham and Monterey shelter as an example to justify the proposed location near Benton, stating that the neighborhoods are similar. **However, this comparison is illogical and misleading, as the Branham and Monterey location was a terrible mistake made by the city of San Jose, which should not be repeated by the city of Santa Clara**. Additionally, the impact on the safety of schools near the Benton location will be significantly greater than that of Branham, as there are 15 schools with a total student population of 10,483 within 1.5 miles of Benton, compared to 3 schools and 1,116 students near Branham. **This risk and potential consequences of the Benton location will be 9 times greater than that of Branham**, and will be much higher if we include teachers and staff, and students from daycares and after-school

programs.

Table 1: Schools within 1.5 Miles of the Proposed Benton Site

Schools	Distance from the Property	Student population
Stratford School	0.25 miles	905
Laurelwood Elementary	0.26 miles	623
Pomeroy Elementary	0.33 miles	344
Monticello Academy	0.38 miles	340
Santa Clara High School	0.58 miles	2,030
Basis Lower School	0.62 miles	380
Peterson Middle School	0.63 miles	871
New Valley / Gateway High School	0.75 miles	160
John Sutter Elementary	0.81 miles	530
Briarwood Elementary School	0.90 miles	292
St. Lawrence Elementary and Middle School	0.93 miles	497
Central Park Elementary	1.2 miles	445
Millikin Basics+ Elementary School	1.2 miles	563
Ponderosa Elementary School	1.3 miles	542
Wilcox High School	1.4 miles	1,961
Total student population		**10,483**

Table 2: Comparison of Branhan and Benton location

	Branham and Monterey shelter	**Proposed Benton shelter**
Number of schools within 1.5 miles	3	**15**
List of schools under 15 min walk	i) Hayes Elementary School - 12 min walk	i) Laurelwood elementary - 11 min walk ii) Pomeroy elementary - 13 min walk iii) Stratford - 14 min walk
List of schools under 20 min walk	i) Hayes Elementary School - 12 min walk ii) Davis (Caroline) Intermediate School - 16 min walk	i) Laurelwood elementary - 11 min walk ii) Pomeroy elementary - 13 min walk iii) Stratford - 14 min walk iv) Santa Clara High School - 16 min walk v) Basis lower school - 17 min walk vi) Monticello - 19 min walk
Total number of students affected	1,116	**10,483**

We are also deeply disappointed and angered by the intentional misinterpretation of our concerns for safety. The City, County and LifeMoves have depicted us, taxpayers and voters, as selfish individuals who prioritize our property value over human lives. Resorting to such an act of smearing has completely disregarded the fact that above all, we are parents, spouses, sons, and daughters who are fighting to protect our families and loved ones. We urge the City, County and LifeMoves to stop stereotyping residents and voters, and instead participate in constructive conversation and leverage the wisdom of residents to make our community a better place for everyone.

We are actively seeking alternative ways to help the unhoused population by proposing alternative uses for this land. **Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own housing project for teachers or first responders** who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here. This investment would uplift the community and make it even more thriving, especially given the proximity of the location to schools. This is also suggested by city councilmember Kevin Park.

The association suggests moving the proposed low-barrier shelter **to a less residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals**. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation and addressing the underlying issues.

We believe that these concerns should warrant proper consideration and mitigation by the City, County and LifeMoves.

Regards,
Board Members, Safe Santa Clara County
safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Benton Shelter Concerns - Opposition Rationale & Requests for 4/25 Meeting
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 8:55:53 PM
Attachments: False and Misleading Info Provided by County and LifeMoves.png

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Good evening,

My name is Cindy, a proud Santa Clara resident for the past 5 years, and a dedicated volunteer with SafeSCC, a grassroots organization committed to preserving safe neighborhoods in Santa Clara County. I vehemently oppose the proposed low-barrier interim housing at Benton, as it blatantly disregards the fundamental right to safety for our community.

The Benton shelter is set to admit individuals with criminal backgrounds, severe mental health issues, and drug addictions, with minimal background checks and a complete absence of drug tests. Such a policy raises considerable concerns as problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed as evidenced in both Milpitas and MTV's shelters, thereby jeopardizing the safety and well-being of our community.

Also the county and LifeMoves failed to conduct any research on the impact of the Benton project on the neighborhood, as evidenced by their incorrect school count, and more. In the first community meeting, the county and LifeMoves had no idea at all how many schools were nearby. Second meeting, they claimed only 4 schools were within 1.5 miles, which was incorrect. Third time, they revised it to 6 schools and 8 daycares, still incorrect. In reality, there are 15 schools and at least 31 daycares within 1.5 miles of Benton location, serving over 11 thousands students and families. No other communities in Santa Clara have such a dense concentration of schools. Amid the police's staffing shortage of city of Santa Clara, how can we ensure the neighborhood's safety?

The estimated annual operating cost for the proposed shelter is also very high as 4.3 Millions per year, with an unclear funding source from year 1 to year 15+. Despite California law requiring a minimum nurse/patient ratio of 1:6 in a psychiatric unit, LifeMoves recommends only one vocational nurse for 200 unscreened homeless tenants, with 57% of them having serious mental health issues.

Moreover, county and LifeMoves have consistently provided false or misleading information, and housing advocates who don't live in the neighborhood were invited to speak in support at all four community meetings.

In the table below are just a few examples of the fact check SafeSCC did for the information provided by the county. They said interim housing is different from shelter in the 2nd meeting, but they are ensencally the same, and they used them interchangeably in the first meeting. County also claimed no one will walk by the shelter, but it's not true! There are pedestrian paths in every direction with regular foot traffic. Also, the location is far from life facilities and public transportation, opposite to what county and LifeMoves claimed. Plus, there's no guarantee of housing Santa Clara's homeless in this shelter, with only 25 out of 274 Milpitas

homeless being housed in their shelter as of 2022. Moreover, a liquor store is just across the street, which may worsen the symptoms and increase likelihood of violent behaviors of those with mental illnesses and drug issues who frequently consume alcohol.

Topic	Question/Concern	County/LifeMoves said…	Fact Check
Terminology	County and LifeMoves provided false and misinformation and intend to mislead the city and the community	"Shelter" is an old model, which is totally different from "interim/supportive housing" that Benton is proposed for.	**"Shelter"and "interim/supportive housing" are used interchangeably in past community meetings by Consuelo. They are the same thing, meaning the target population is homeless and onsite supportive service will be provided. 1000 Hillview Ct, Milpitas is a permanent supportive housing.**
Safety	Impact on crime rates or service calls on the site or neighborhood	Consuelo said no data have showed crime would increase in and near the shelter	**> 300% increase in police calls at and around Milpitas' 1000 Hillview Ct Apartments; Consuelo attended the meeting and acknowledged the significant crime surge.**
Safety	Number of Schools Nearby	First time knew nothing about number of schools Second time counted only 4 within 1.5 miles Third time missed all the schools west of Lawrence	**15 schools with 10,483 students; At least 31 daycares within 1.5 miles**
Safety	Pedestrian safety concern	No one will walk passing by the location, as there is no path available for walking past it.	**Pedestrian paths in every direction. Regular foot traffic from families, seniors, couples with strollers, and students on weekdays and weekends. Students frequently visit the 711 across Benton for snacks.**
Location	Proximity to Grocery	Walking distance to necessities	**0.9 miles or minimum 18 minutes walk to nearest grocery**
Location	Proximity to Health Services	Kaiser is close by	**Kaiser requires insurance; Only emergency services without insurance**
Location	Local Homeless Folks	Homeless individuals are already present in the area. We should provide them with shelter here.	**Allocation based on queue, no guarantee of housing Santa Clara's homeless in this shelter; Milpitas facility data shows only 10 Milpitas homeless in 132-unit apartment; as of 2022, two years since its launch, only 25 out of 274 homeless in Milpitas have been housed**
Location	Proximity to bus stop	Public transportations is very close by	**The closest bus stop is on El Carmino & Henderson, 1 miles away from the Benton location, and 21 min walk.**
Location	Proximity to liquor store	Ignored	**Across the street. Research shows that people with mental illnesses who frequently consume alcohol experience worsened symptoms, leading to an increased propensity for violence and criminal behavior.**

Despite four community meetings, the county and LifeMoves have failed to present a solid proposal or address the community's concerns directly.

At the April 25 meeting, we demand they:

1) Provide clear, satisfactory answers to all 500+ community questions,including the 300+ questions that have remain unanswered since February;
2) Refrain from inviting outside speakers;
3) Prioritize feedback from nearby residents; and
4) Address our concerns with transparent, actionable solutions, holding them fully accountable for any discrepancies or broken promises.

Our community's safety is non-negotiable, and we urge you to take these concerns seriously.

Thank you for your attention,

Cindy

Community Hearing Highlights - County and LifeMoves consistently provide false and misleading information

Topic	Question/Concern	County/LifeMoves said...	Fact Check
Terminology	County and LifeMoves provided false and misinformation and intend to mislead the city and the community	"Shelter" is an old model, which is totally different from "interim/supportive housing" that Benton is proposed for.	**"Shelter"and "interim/supportive housing" are used interchangeably in past community meetings by Consuelo. They are the same thing, meaning the target population is homeless and onsite supportive service will be provided.** **1000 Hillview Ct, Milpitas is a permanent supportive housing.**
Safety	Impact on crime rates or service calls on the site or neighborhood	Consuelo said no data have showed crime would increase in and near the shelter	**> 300% increase in police calls at and around Milpitas' 1000 Hillview Ct Apartments; Consuelo attended the meeting and acknowledged the significant crime surge.**
Safety	Number of Schools Nearby	First time knew nothing about number of schools Second time counted only 4 within 1.5 miles Third time missed all the schools west of Lawrence	**15 schools with 10,483 students;** **At least 31 daycares within 1.5 miles**
Safety	Pedestrian safety concern	No one will walk passing by the location, as there is no path available for walking past it.	**Pedestrian paths in every direction. Regular foot traffic from families, seniors, couples with strollers, and students on weekdays and weekends. Students frequently visit the 711 across Benton for snacks.**
Location	Proximity to Grocery	Walking distance to necessities	**0.9 miles or minimum 18 minutes walk to nearest grocery**
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Location	Local Homeless Folks	Homeless individuals are already present in the area. We should provide them with shelter here.	**Allocation based on queue, no guarantee of housing Santa Clara's homeless in this shelter; Milpitas facility data shows only 10 Milpitas homeless in 132-unit apartment; as of 2022, two years since its launch, only 25 out of 274 homeless in Milpitas have been housed**
Location	Proximity to bus stop	Public transportations is very close by	**The closest bus stop is on El Carmino & Henderson, 1 miles away from the Benton location, and 21 min walk.**
Location	Proximity to liquor store	Ignored	**Across the street. Research shows that people with mental illnesses who frequently consume alcohol experience worsened symptoms, leading to an increased propensity for violence and criminal behavior.**

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: City council meeting - Benton and Lawrence homeless shelter
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 7:14:07 AM

Hello Adam

I got information from the Santa Clara city newsletter that a special Citi Council meeting is being scheduled on April 25 in order to discuss the Benton/Lawrence interim housing proposal.

However I do not see this meeting listed in the list of Santa Clara city council meetings. Could you prove more info on this regarding timings, venue and how to join?

I am a resident of Santa Clara and I wish to participate and view this meeting.

Regards
Venkat Akileshwaran

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Collaborating to build supportive housing in Santa Clara city
Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 11:49:32 AM

Hello Adam,

Hope you are having a good week so far. I am Punit, President and Chairman of California Supportive Housing, a non-profit focused on supportive and 100% affordable Housing. We are working on multiple Homekey and LIHTC projects in the Bay Area and we are reaching out to work with you and the city to develop supportive housing in Santa Clara city using Homekey Round 3.

We are in contract with a well located reasonably priced 67 unit motel in Santa Clara and we are closely working with HomeFirst to provide supportive services for that property and for co-applying with us. We plan to develop the property in two phases first converting 67 units to interim housing and then to 160 permanent units. We had a review of our proposal with Steve Le from planning and had good initial reactions and support and will be working with the planning on the details of the phase 2. We also connected with OHA Director Consuelo H. and will be collaborating for PBV and additional Measure A funds for the project (that will not be in time for Homekey Round 3 application but would reduce the capex/opex gap when awarded).
We would like to work with you to collaborate to co-apply for Homekey Round 3. It would be great if we could connect with you to present our proposal (including site, development plan, proforma, opex/capex gap/matching funds).

Please let me know if there is any slot on this week or Monday-Wednesday next week that works for you for a quick conference call?
Looking forward to working with you and the city to develop the much needed supportive housing for Santa Clara.

Thanks
Punit
President and Chairman
[redacted]
California Supportive Housing
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Comment Card for Benton/Lawrence Shelter
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 4:50:26 PM

Please include this comment in your proposal to the City of Santa Clara City Council

Nancy Von Handorf
[redacted]

I strongly oppose the proposal to build a shelter at the corner of Benton and Lawrence Expressway. I have lived on [redacted] (directly behind the site) for 46 years. I am now a senior citizen and I am very concerned about my personal safety and crime in my neighborhood increasing if this shelter is built. This shelter should be located in an industrial area away from schools and neighborhoods filled with families and seniors.

As a long term resident of Santa Clara and this neighborhood I urge you to vote NO on this proposal.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Comment Card for the Shelter Proposal Lawrence Expwy & Benton
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:21:41 PM

Please include this comment in your proposal to the City of Santa Clara City Council
Alicia Deboe
[redacted]

Comment:

I strongly oppose the proposal to build a shelter at the corner of Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway. I have lived on Shafer Drive, the street behind this location, since 1977. I grew up on this street and then bought a home on this street to raise my family. I am disappointed the city would even consider this type of housing in a neighborhood. At the community meetings, our concerns for safety and security are disregarded because we are "assuming" there will be criminals and drug addicts but Lifemoves stated that is exactly why the shelter is low barrier- people that can pass drug tests and background checks have other housing options. I am a Santa Clara Unified employee and I have been trained to use Naloxone because fentanyl and opioid overdose is a real concern in our schools, so please do not invite more drug activity into an area surrounded by school and parks. This shelter will not help clean up our city and the homeless population will only increase since this shelter will bring in people from all over the county. I understand the police need a drop off facility for those people who ask for or are willing to accept help and that type of shelter should be located in an industrial area. Other projects (Milpitas and San Jose) that are close to neighborhoods have not been open long enough to get data on problems and crime rates. The police officer who spoke at the last in person meeting said he is in contact with Milpitas police and there are concerns about what is happening at that shelter, and that police are concerned about a high concentration of people in one area and a non secure perimeter- two things this proposal has. This shelter should be located in an industrial area away from densely populated neighborhoods, schools and parks.

I urge you to VOTE NO on this proposal. Santa Clara does not need to be added to the list of cities who regret approving this type of shelter.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Comment on interim housing project meeting #4
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:13:25 PM

Hi City & County staff and elected officials,

My name is Asha and I grew up and still live within a mile of the proposed interim housing project in Santa Clara. Throughout my life I've seen Santa Clara get more exclusive and less economically diverse because of the rising cost of housing. Hardly anyone who I grew up with lives in the area because they simply can't afford it. We need to prioritize inclusivity in our neighborhood and that means investing in supportive housing as well as other types of affordable housing and renter protections.

I also want to point out Professor Jamie Chang's research from Santa Clara University who found that 246 people in the County who were unsheltered died in the streets last year, more than half of whom are people of color. We need to invest in inclusivity and we can't keep saying not here, not here. I invite everyone in my neighborhood to think about the well-being of everyone, not just the most well-off among us.

Thanks,
Asha DuMonthier

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "Big No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 4:30:20 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.

    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data

presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:

    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
    - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
    - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:

    -

Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
    - **Only US citizens**
    - Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
    - Put Families first
    - Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
    - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
    - Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
    - Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is

ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Harsha Vashisht, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:06:45 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still think that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are **not at all satisfied by the data presented** in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seemed to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. **The impact assessment should be based on market data**. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
    - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
    - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
    - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
    - **Only US citizens**
    - Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
    - Put Families first
    - Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
    - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
    - Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
    - Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Pushpanjali S,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 12:42:17 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a "low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.

Safety & Security (of residents): The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

Property Value:The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

Safety & Security (of clients): The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

Budget:
Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

Screening: The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
Only US citizens
Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
Put Families first
Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)
Alternative plan for Benton
A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

WIth regards,
Rachna Lal
Resident of [redacted] Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 7:59:22 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based

on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
    - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
    - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
    - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
    - **Only US citizens**
    - Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
    - Put Families first

- Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
- Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
- Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
- Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Santosh Singh,

Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 3:00:49 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.

2.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others

due to them:

4.
    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
    - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
    - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4.

Budget:

5.
    - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5.

Screening: The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-

- **Only US citizens**
- Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
- Put Families first
- Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
- Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
- Occupants shouldn’t be in violation of Megan’s law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children’s parks.

- Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton
A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Divyashree Ramesh,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Saturday, March 25, 2023 8:52:21 AM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?
2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).
3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get

housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:

- How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
- How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
- How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
- How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
   - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
   - **Only US citizens**
   - Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
   - Put Families first
   - Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
   - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
   - Occupants shouldn’t be in violation of Megan’s law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children’s parks.

- Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

We already have Bella Vista Inn right next to this area opened up. Why are we not distributing the homeless shelters across other areas of the county ? We have cities around here which have none.

Alternative plan for Benton - What the City really needs to prevent families from going jobless & homless

1) A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.
2) Also, we should consider the lack of child care centers in our area. Appleseed School closed down because the SCUSD reclaimed their property. It used to cater to ~200 children from infant to preschool age. We should consider this property for building a day care center for the growing working class families in this region.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Sonia Singhal,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Concerns About the Safety Impact of the Benton Homeless Shelter Project
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 8:00:47 AM

Dear Consuelo & Adam,

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the proposed Benton Homeless Shelter Project, specifically regarding the potential safety impact on our neighborhood. As a resident of this community for almost 15 years and at 75 years old, safety is a top priority for my life.

Last year, I attended a Milpitas City Council meeting regarding the 1000 Hillview Supportive Housing project, which had a significant impact on the safety and security of the surrounding community. I am deeply concerned about the potential for similar safety issues to arise in our own neighborhood if the Benton Homeless Shelter Project moves forward.

I am writing to seek your help in understanding why the safety issues that arose in Milpitas could happen, and how we can be assured that this will not happen in our own community. Until I receive answers to these questions and feel confident that the safety of our community will not be compromised, I will remain strongly opposed to the construction of the interim housing in Benton and Lawrence.

I urge you to take these concerns seriously and to work with the community to address them before moving forward with this project. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Helen Zong

--
Sincerely,

Sharon

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Eight Reasons to Oppose Benton Shelter, with data
Date: Saturday, April 8, 2023 3:02:07 PM

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

My name is Qing Chen, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is a reckless proposal and radical experiment.There are 8 major reasons that I oppose the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022.)
3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
4. High operation cost of $4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from $17M to $34.4M only one year after its approval. Therefore LifeMoves' promise cannot be trusted
5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse (State law requires 1:6 nurse-patient radio in a psychiatric unit, LifeMoves recommends only one vocational nurse for 200 unscreened homeless tenants, with 57% of them having serious mental health issues)
6. Location selection is far from public transit (1 mile), grocery (0.9 mile) and jobs
7. County providing false and misleading info
8. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara.

County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of more than 400 participants strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you. Thank you for your attention.

Resource:

Milpitas council meeting on 1000 Hillview Ct apartment, in November 2022:
https://www.youtube.com/live/1sqJldTlpmU?feature=share&t=2570, starts 43:00

- Chief police Hernandez gave update on its impact on public safety services. Starting *1:03:21*
- Councilmember Karina R. Dominguez (who is the initial supporter for this project) expressed a lot of concerns for safety and urge them to be addressed immediately. Starts 1:31:38

As costs rise, LifeMoves' Palo Alto's transitional housing project seeks to reduce amenities: *https://paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/03/30/as-costs-rise-palo-altos-transitional-housing-project-seeks-to-reduce-amenities*

LifeMoves Mountain View promises to help its homeless clients find stable housing in three months. The majority of them don't: https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2023/03/30/lifemoves-mountain-view-promises-to-help-homeless-clients-find-stable-housing-in-three-months-the-vast-majority-dont

Life Moves Mountain View aims to house people in just three months. Experts say that its model doesn't work:

https://paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/03/30/lifemoves-mountain-view-promises-to-help-homeless-clients-find-stable-housing-in-three-months-the-vast-majority-dont

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Entire household ([redacted] strongly against Homekey project "Benton Street at Lawrence"
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:48:53 AM

To Consuelo and Santa Clara county:

Please stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom.

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the HomeKey project "Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Shelter" , portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for it and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance for such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Sincere,

Household and house owner of [redacted].

Ethan Chou
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Fear of the KNOWN: Firm "No" to any low entry barrier homeless shelters near residential neighborhoods like Lawrence/Benton
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 4:11:03 PM
Attachments: Working together in solving homelessness crisis along with improving safety 4.4.23.pdf

---

Thank you for listening to the Santa Clara residents in the last City Council meeting (on 4/4/23) regarding the impact to our safety due to the Lawrence/Benton "Low Entry Barrier" Homeless Shelter project.

We, as residents, are afraid of the adverse impact of such a low entry barrier shelter created so close to our homes and schools. Per the data shown by the city, more than 57% of the clients serviced by such a facility could have mental disorders, addiction to drugs, criminal records etc. Per our local police, more than 90% of the unhoused homeless that they get into touch with have substance abuse issues.
Imagine your home being in proximity to such a facility where such folks may be getting help, but are quite free to roam around, loiter around your homes or schools. How does that make you feel?

Recent brutal attack on the former San Francisco fire commissioner in Marina District exemplifies what your residents are afraid of.

This is not a fear of the unknown but rather a fear due to the known perils associated with severe mental disorders, substance abuse and repeat criminal behaviors.

Ms. Mayor and council members, the tax paying citizens, especially the middle class want safety first. Nothing comes above that for families that just want a safe environment to bring up their kids. So far we have not seen any tangible proof regarding the efficacy of screenings done by LifeMoves to allay our concerns.

Most of the residents are amenable to a low income rent to own housing for teachers, nurses, firefighters, police workers etc. who work hard to uplift our community but get priced out from this expensive city. Such an investment would uplift the community and make it even more thriving. Please refer to the presentation attached.

Most of the residents also suggest moving such "low barrier entry shelters for singles/couples" in a relatively non-residential area, and providing amenities and support that help such individuals rehabilitate. There is so much money being pumped by the government that we can really tackle this problem at its root cause, by rehabilitation and learning the issues that are causing this situation in the first place. We have already found a number of locations within Santa Clara County that could be a better fit. If you can support

us, we'd be able to tackle the issue of the housing crisis for low income households along with tackling homelessness jointly, without compromising on the safety of your residents. We could actually become a shining example of how this can be done right, with the power of the majority of residents with you. The current approach just seems to be a very expensive band-aid that would only increase problems for tax paying residents and jeopardize our safety.

We need your support in making safety the topmost priority.

Regards,
Ashish
Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From:	[redacted]
To:	[redacted]
Cc:	[redacted]dez@hhs.sccgov.org"; supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org; Supervisor.Lee@bos.sccgov.org
Subject:	Fear of the KNOWN: Firm "No" to any low entry barrier homeless shelters near high density neighborhoods like Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Tuesday, April 11, 2023 8:54:03 PM

Dear Mayor and Council members,

Thank you for listening to the Santa Clara residents in the last City Council meeting (on 4/4/23) regarding the impact to our safety due to the Lawrence/Benton "Low Entry Barrier" Homeless Shelter project..

We, as residents, are afraid of the adverse impact of such a low entry barrier shelter created so close to our homes and schools. Per the data shown by the city, more than 57% of the clients serviced by such a facility could have mental disorders, addiction to drugs, criminal records etc. Imagine your home being in proximity to such a facility where such folks may be getting help, but are quite free to roam around, loiter around your homes or schools. How does that feel?

Recent brutal attack on the former San Francisco fire commissioner in Marina District exemplifies what your residents are afraid of.

This is not a fear of the unknown but rather a fear due to the known perils associated with severe mental disorders, substance abuse and repeat criminal behaviors.

Ms. Mayor and council members, the tax paying citizens, especially the middle class want safety first. Nothing comes above that for families that just want a safe environment to bring up their kids. So far we have not seen any tangible proof regarding the efficacy of screenings done by LifeMoves to allay our concerns.

Most of the residents are amenable to a low income rent to own housing for teachers, nurses, firefighters, police workers etc. who work hard to uplift our community but get priced out from this expensive city. Such an investment would uplift the community and make it even more thriving.

Most of the residents also suggest moving such "low barrier entry shelters for singles/couples" in a relatively non-residential area, and providing amenities and support that help such individuals rehabilitate. There is so much money being pumped by the government that we can really tackle this problem at its root cause, by rehabilitation and learning the issues that are causing this situation in the first place. We have already found a number of locations within Santa Clara County that could be a better fit. If you can support us, we'd be able to tackle the issue of the housing crisis for low income households along with tackling homelessness jointly, without compromising on the safety of your residents. The current approach just seems to be a very expensive band-aid that would only increase problems for tax paying residents and jeopardize our safety.

We need your support in making safety the topmost priority.

Regards,
Anupama T

Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Feedback form for 9th march public meeting - regarding Benton shelter
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 8:59:10 AM
Attachments: Feedbackform_march-9-meeting.pdf

Hello All,

Please find our feedback form attached and kindly include it in your records you submit to city council.

Thanks,
Vishal
--
Typing one handed. Please excuse typos

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: FW: Article on Life Moves in Mountain View
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 8:49:14 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Dear Mayor and Council,

We received the following email which we are forwarding for your reference.

Thank You,
[redacted] | Executive Assistant
Mayor & Council Offices | City of Santa Clara
[redacted] [redacted]

City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 3:42 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Article on Life Moves in Mountain View

Dear Mayor and Council.

Please, please, please read this article from the Mountain View Voice dated March 30, 2023.
It substantiates much of the concerns of those in our community who live in the surrounding area.
In fact, this information is evidence that this model anywhere in the City of Santa Clara will not be successful.

Consider using the space for other things of public interest that WILL help the poor and keep them out of homelessness, like affordable toddler child care. That is an investment in the future.

Even without this article, what Life Moves proposes simply won't happen. Those who suffer an addiction of any sort are not "rehabilitated" in 6 months. We know that from high profile cases of celebrities who go to high profile, intensive and expensive rehab centers and return to their addiction. It took years for people to be living on the street with many, many factors involved: mental illness, alienation from family, lack of job skills, lack of being able to hold down a job. Their situation cannot be remedied in a few months.

Life Moves is a "feel good" band aid for a gaping wound. It will be unsuccessful from inception. This is common sense, but the article tells all.

Please do not approve of any contract with Life Moves at Benton and Lawrence.
Read the article and how can you disagree?

https://www.mv-voice.com/news/2023/03/30/lifemoves-mountain-view-promises-to-help-homeless-clients-find-stable-housing-in-three-months-the-vast-majority-dont?utm_source=express-2023-03-30&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=express#.ZCbF4fvyI2M.mailto

Sincerely,
Judy Crates
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Canceling April 12 - Housing CDBG Coordinators" Monthly Meeting // Homekey Round 3 NOFA Webinar
Date: Monday, April 10, 2023 5:29:49 PM

Webinar on next round of homekey funds. Great chatting with you today.

Best,
Chantal

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 5:07 PM
To: [redacted]

[redacted]

Subject: Canceling April 12 - Housing CDBG Coordinators' Monthly Meeting // Homekey Round 3 NOFA Webinar

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Good afternoon, everyone. We are canceling the April 12 Housing CDBG Coordinators' meeting. We look forward to meeting with you next on Wednesday, May 10th from 11 am to noon.

We are also reaching out to share the HCD announcement below about an upcoming Homekey Round 3 webinar on April 20, 2023 from 10am - 12pm. Please see the message below for a registration link.

From: CA Department of Housing & Community Development <communications@hcd-ca.ccsend.com> **On Behalf Of** CA Department of Housing & Community Development
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 1:44 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Correction: Homekey Round 3 NOFA Webinar

Apologies, the registration link should now be working.

Homekey Round 3

Register to attend NOFA webinar

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will

be hosting a webinar on April 20 to outline the Homekey Round 3 program requirements and assist communities in accessing Homekey funds. HCD released the Homekey Round 3 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for $736 million on March 29.

Who is eligible to apply?
Homekey Round 3 will distribute $736 million in grant funding to local public entities, including cities, counties, or other local public entities, such as housing authorities or federally or non-federally recognized Indian tribes within California.

Homekey is an opportunity for state, regional, and local public entities to develop a broad range of housing types, including but not limited to hotels, motels, single-family homes and multifamily apartments, adult residential facilities, and manufactured housing, and to convert commercial properties and other existing buildings to Permanent or Interim Housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Register to attend the NOFA webinar

April 20, 2023
10am - 12pm

Requests for accommodation, translation services, and for auxiliary aides and services to access the meeting may be submitted by email. Please submit your requests by April 15, 2023.

Application Process
HCD will accept applications on a continuous, over-the-counter basis through July 28, 2023, or until the available funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first. **Applicants must submit a pre-application consultation survey** to HCD prior to applying. Information on when pre-application consultations will be available will be posted on the Homekey webpage.

For more information, please visit the Homekey webpage.

Questions? [redacted]

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hcd.ca.gov

Department of Housing & Community Development | [redacted]

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NOTICE: This email message and/or its attachments may contain information that is confidential or restricted. It is intended only for the individuals named as recipients in the message. If you are NOT an authorized recipient, you are prohibited from using, delivering, distributing, printing, copying, or disclosing the message or content to others and must delete the message from your computer. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by return email.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: FW: Homeless Shelter Benton/Lawerence
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 8:49:14 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Dear Mayor and Council,

We received the following email which we are forwarding for your reference.

Thank You,
Melissa Lee | Executive Assistant
Mayor & Council Offices | City of Santa Clara
[redacted]

City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

From: Ally Perfetto [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 7:41 PM
To: supervisor [redacted]
Subject: Homeless Shelter Benton/Lawerence

Ally Perfetto [redacted] 7:31 PM (7 minutes ago)

to supervisor.lee

I think privatizing the issue of homelessness is the wrong solution.

The cost of the homelessness shelter per person is 55,000, per year. 4,500 per month. If the city just rented out a couple of apartment from each apartment complex (perhaps 1% of units) you would be able to fit many more homeless people.

These people would feel more integrated with society, as they are not in a giant conglomerate were 80 percent of the neighboring community, disagrees with their placement.

Social services could help monitor their placements, (with proper funding, taken from savings from rent)

LifeMoves is a business just like any other, and will be looking for a profit. Sooner or later there will be changes to the shelter which are no longer profitable and short cuts will be taken. These choices will be in the best interest of LifeMoves, and not the homeless people nor surrounding communities.

I strongly oppose the proposed life moves shelter of Lawerence and Benton.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Shelter Queue Waitlist Data 3 8 2023.xlsx
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:38:30 PM
Attachments: Shelter Queue Waitlist Data 3 8 2023.xlsx

Here is the shelter queue info.

Hilary Armstrong (she/her)
Office of Supportive Housing | County of Santa Clara
[redacted]

From: Barbieri, Shelly [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:00 PM
To: Armstrong, Hilary [redacted]
Cc: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted] Covert, Michelle L [redacted]
Subject: Shelter Queue Waitlist Data 3 8 2023.xlsx

Hello,

I have attached the shelter queue data. Data is as of today and focuses on household size with city affiliation (which city did you live in prior to becoming homeless). We can also run city affiliation by the city you spend the most time in. Pregnancy data soon to come. Let me know if you have any questions. Let me know if you want additional data.

Thanks,
Shelly

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Homeless Low Barrier Housing @ Benton /Lawrence.
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 8:36:59 AM
Attachments: Scan_Larry Bush_08_31_17-03-2023.pdf

To whom it may concern:
I have lived in the area for more than 50 years.
I feel this is to close to schools, parks and senior living.
There are allot of empty offices and warehouse that could be converted in much better area.

Thank you.

Laurens Bush

From: No Homekey in Birdland Benton
Subject: How many will it take?
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 5:41:43 PM

Please, tell us, how many murders, assaults, rapes, or robberies of our neighbors and colleagues will it take to get you to realize that putting 200-300 homeless directly off the streets into our neighborhood is a BAD IDEA?

We stopped attending conferences in SF because of the danger. Our colleagues who flew in from other parts of the country couldn't understand why we didn't drive up until they had to walk along the streets near Moscone and had to step over people and used drug paraphernalia. Many event organizers have already chosen other cities for future conferences.

And you want us to extend a warm welcome to the homeless? No. They need to be moved out of our creeks and off of our streets and into an appropriate facility away from those of us that are vulnerable.

Please don't respond with...'not all homeless are criminals'.

42% have mental health issues
35% have drug/alcohol addiction
25% spent at least one night in jail in the past 12 months.

That's your data, not ours. We are furious that you would even consider doing this to us.

Perhaps you can find an old military base to use for a few years.

A homeless interim transitional housing shelter, or whatever you're choosing to call it this year, does NOT BELONG ON BENTON or in any other residential area. Period!

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: I oppose building another homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton location .....
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:45:08 AM

Hi TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,
I oppose building another homeless shelter at **Lawrence & Benton location** because Homeless Shelter for residents can pose potential risks to the high-density residential areas and to users of parks,
kids in many daycares, schools and children's playgrounds in this area. AND I request that I vote NO on this project:
Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Service Enriched Shelter

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Thanks & Regards,
Bay Star Limo
[redacted]

*** If cancellation is made less than 24 hours we will charge 100% of original fees.**

Confidentiality Notice: *The information in this e-mail and any attachments thereto is intended for the named recipient(s) only. This e-mail, including any attachments, may contain information that is privileged and confidential and subject to legal restrictions and penalties regarding its unauthorized disclosure or other use. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action or inaction in reliance on the contents of this e-mail and any of its attachments is* ***STRICTLY PROHIBITED****. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender via return e-mail; delete this e-mail and all attachments from your e-mail system and your computer system and network; and destroy any paper copies you may have in your possession. Thank you for your cooperation.*

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: I oppose the project at this location
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:01:34 PM

Hi

I don't have the chance to speak up during the meeting. I just want to share my opinion that I oppose the shelter at this location. I live in santa clara with two kids. The people who showed support in the meeting are not belong to santa clara. Two are from Sunnyvale, two don't want to share where they live and only saying live in bay area, one is public official. Please be aware and listen to the local people in santa clara

Saihua

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:07:23 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues ... We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, but while it is a good and noble cause to help them, I strongly feel that mixing the “most challenging elements of the population” with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
Besides situated in a densely populated residential area, the proposed site is adjacent to a section of Lawrence Expressway that is 2-way, 8-lane with a tremendous amount of weekday traffic. None of the environmental characteristics, including but not limited to, loud, continuous noise, resultant lower air quality, proximity to high volume of vehicle traffic is conducive to rehabilitation and stabilization of life after living on the street.
The County does own a number of parcels further away from residential areas. Palo Alto has had experience with building a homeless shelter in a non-residential area. In these areas, more space is available, which may enable more space allocation per unhoused individual, compared to the 4-story, container-like tiny rooms for individuals and couples proposed for the Benton site.
Last but not least, there is indisputable, data-backed research showing that a homeless shelter, either an “interim shelter”, “emergency shelter” or called by any other name, inevitably brings negative impacts onto the surrounding neighborhood. Crime rates will rise. Property market value (NOT assessed value thanks to Prop 13 in California) will fall. The county has converted the previous Bella Vista Inn into a homeless care facility this year. The Benton/Lawrence location is barely half a mile away. It seems unfair and unthoughtful to subject communities in the Lawrence/El Camino Real area to another one again.
With all above facts, I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Eric Sung

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 6:14:04 PM

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed homeless shelter in our community. I believe that this particular shelter poses a tremendous safety threat to the 11,000 students and families in the area.

As you are aware, the proposed shelter would gather criminals, drug addicts, and individuals with mental disorders without treatment together in one place. This creates an environment that is inherently dangerous, and one that has already been seen in Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites experiencing striking crime statistics increasing.

Furthermore, I am troubled by the fact that more than 300 questions from members of the community remain unanswered to date. It is imperative that those responsible for making decisions regarding the proposed shelter take the time to listen to and address the concerns of the community. We have a right to know how this shelter will be operated and managed, and what measures will be taken to ensure the safety of our community.

Lastly, it is concerning that there appears to be no plan for operation fund and cost even after three community hearings. The lack of transparency and accountability in this matter is simply unacceptable, and I urge you to reconsider this proposal.

In conclusion, I implore you to listen to the concerns of the community and take action to prevent the establishment of this homeless shelter. Our safety and well-being depend on it.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Junwei Wei

--
Junwei Wei, Ph.D
Sr Architect, [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:20:27 AM

Dear Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County,

I strongly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway.
My kids will not feel safe walking in my neighborhood or visit Earl R Carmichael park anymore.

Regards,
Robert Vu

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Subject: Illegal Discrimination
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 8:32:58 PM

Hi,

I have been writing and speaking to some of you lately in favor of the proposal to build a low barrier interim housing facility at the corner of Lawrence & Benton.

I've seen a lot of the inflammatory rhetoric from the opposition, and I want to remind you: it is ILLEGAL to discriminate against disabilities, including mental illness. You CANNOT legally veto this facility on the basis of fear around people with disabilities.

R. Elysa Gurman (she/they)

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: in support of Benton + Lawrence interim housing
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 7:59:42 PM

Hi, I'm writing in support of the Benton and Lawrence interim housing project. I attended in tonight's Zoom community meeting but did not join the speaker queue in time to speak.

I've been a Santa Clara homeowner for over 20 years. I strongly support this project, and I'm disheartened that so many of my fellow citizens are opposed because of biased perceptions about who is going to live inside it.

This is a positive step to address our local homelessness crisis by providing safe housing and much needed resources.

I live near Stevens Creek and San Tomas, an area where I know multiple people live on the street. If the city can find an additional site near me, I would also strongly support having a similar project built in my very own neighborhood.

Thank you,
Lisa Eckstein

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: In Support of Lawrence & Benton
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:49:31 PM

I am writing today in support of the housing project at Lawrence & Benton. The opposition is using a lot of scare tactics and inaccurate information to get people riled up for no reason. There are a lot of reasons why this is a good idea, and I plan to share a different one every day. Today I'd like to tell you about children.

In general, engaging with people who are different from ourselves is a good thing. It makes us more compassionate, kinder, and better citizens as we grow. As a child who interacted with unhoused people under the age of 10 both in formal volunteer capacities and by interacting on the streets, I know first hand how impactful that can be. Parents in the neighborhood are concerned about their children being "exposed" to people that are different. That is frustrating, as our community is so diverse to begin with. Additionally, there are already homeless children attending many of the schools in the area, so these kids already know homeless people whether they realize it or not. It's also not that difficult to explain homelessness or this building to children with age appropriate language. Kids are smarter and more empathetic than we often give them credit for. Some examples:

"This is for people who don't have a home, until they find a home"
"We are lucky because we have a house to sleep in every night. Not everybody does."
"Sometimes bad things happen to good people, or good people make mistakes"
"Some people who need extra help can't support themselves. We can help by welcoming them into the neighborhood."

Sources:

Scary Mommy - What Happened When A Homeless Shelter Moved Into My Upper Class City Neighborhood

HumanKind - Raising Empathetic Humans: Four Tips for Talking to Kids About Homelessness

Invisible People - What Happens When Kids are ‘Exposed’ to Homelessness?

National Center for Education Statistics - Homeless Children and Youth in Public Schools

ACLU West Virginia - Five Reasons Why We Don't Need to Ban Homeless Services Near Schools

ACLU Northern California - ACLU Leads Young People on Mission Targeting Teen Homelessness

Search Homeless Services - How To Talk To Your Children About Homelessness

San Francisco Examiner - Here are 5 Tips for Talking With Your Children About Homelessness

R. Elysa Gurman (she/they)

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: In Support of Lawrence & Benton
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 3:01:20 PM

I am writing today in support of the housing project at Lawrence & Benton. The opposition is using a lot of scare tactics and inaccurate information to get people riled up for no reason. There are a lot of reasons why this is a good idea, and I plan to share a different one every day. Today I'd like to tell you about location.

For a vulnerable population with lack of transportation, it is important that a housing facility is located within walking distance of other services. Within less than a mile from the proposed site there are grocery stores, convenience stores, parks, churches, and a hospital. Plus, the county already owns the land, making it cost efficient. And while pumpkins and Christmas trees are fun, there are other places in the county to find those activities, which will never be more important than putting a roof over someone's head. At the end of the day, unhoused people are just people without a house. And people live in neighborhoods and deserve to have the benefit of community amenities.

Sources:

Finding Homeless Patients A Place To Heal

Transportation and Homelessness: A Systematic Review

Homelessness & Food Deserts in Los Angeles

Community Amenities
Why Neighborhoods—and the Policies that Shape Them—Matter

The Importance of Place: Neighborhood Amenities as a Source of Social Connection and Trust

Strategies for Improving Homeless People's Access to Mainstream Benefits and Services

Shelter Environment and Placement in
Community Affects Lifestyle Factors
Among Homeless Families in Minnesota

R. Elysa Gurman (she/they)

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Subject: Lawrence and Benton Interim Shelter Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:22:47 PM
Attachments: image.png

Greetings,

Thank you all for the meeting this evening.

I want to express my appreciation for some of the points that your team has clearly heard from the community:

- Thank you for hearing our concerns regarding the density, especially with Bella Vista Inn being only 0.5mi away. Your Option 2 design takes into better consideration the houses that you will be right up against, shoulder-to-shoulder, and the fact this neighborhood will already be absorbing the impacts of Bella Vista Inn.
- Thank you for hearing that this area is better suited for children, as is obvious by the quantity of schools and parents that reside in this area, and re-designing the site to accommodate 25% that are families.
- Thank you for explaining that there will be rules and that illegal activity will not be allowed on the premise. (We hope illegal activity does not then just get pushed out off-premise into the parks and neighborhood.)
- Thank you for hearing our concern about there being only 0.5mi distance to Bella Vista Inn and considering the bike shop site as an alternative.

I feel there are some points that perhaps you were not made aware of:

- This is a very residential neighborhood and is not suitable for an interim shelter where its longevity and continued proper management is unknown. Residents live decades in a neighborhood and will likely outlive your career(s) managing this site. Longevity (continued funding) of this site needs to be addressed, if you ultimately choose to place this in a neighborhood.
- Mr. Consuelo mentioned that there are families at local schools who would benefit from this shelter. We already have the nearby Bella Vista Inn which should solve this issue for them.
- Where do the unhoused go, if they time-out or get removed from this site? We know that unhoused peoples will be brought in from all over the County. Does this neighborhood then become their new encampment?
- Addressing the fact that you are placing 2 shelters in what is known as Koreatown, where minorities, especially Asians, are more frequently targeted than Caucasians due to scapegoating by the past administration as well as both the Democratic and Republican parties. I am not surprised that this community feels a heightened sense of fear. There is no Asian representation in your staff at Lifemoves. I would like to hear how Lifemoves would address this issue, including offering anti-bias and culturally diverse training to your clients, in order to potentially be good neighbors, especially in the Koreatown area.
- I noticed that your presentation was very one-sided. You offered testimonials of your clients, but there were no testimonials of homeowner residents from around your other shelters. I also noticed most of your other shelters are not immediately adjacent to homes and residences, but this one will be. I would like to see this addressed.
- If you are choosing this location, I would like to see Lifemoves acknowledge and address

that in the United States of America, homes are the only safety net that citizens have. Homes are the only thing that Americans can sell to fund their retirement, healthcare costs, mortgage to pay for their child's education, to relocate and more. Ours is a country without universal healthcare, abysmal social security, no universal higher education and no safety net. By putting a second site directly into one neighborhood, Lifemoves needs to acknowledge that you are impacting the only safety net a citizen has in this country, which is their home, and it is heavily dependent on density, barrier of entry and management at such a location.
- I would also like to see Lifemoves address the issue of removing 24/7 security at your Palo Alto location:

> To cut costs, the architect has proposed eliminating several features from the shelter. The project would no longer have solar panels and electric vehicle charging, 24/7 on-site security, or sun shades.

https://padailypost.com/2023/03/20/price-of-proposed-homeless-shelter-goes-up-again/

Though I am heartened that Lifemoves has heard some of our concerns, I still feel that this site is not a suitable site due to the issues I list above.

Thank you for your time and I would like a response to the issues I brought up above.

Sincerely,

Jean L

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

Subject: Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 1:55:14 PM

Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value**:The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?

- How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
- How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
    - Santa Clara city is already in a **deficit**. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening**: The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
    - **Only US citizens**
    - Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
    - Put Families first
    - Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
    - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
    - Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
    - Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Tina Liu
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Subject: Low-barrier Interim Housing project proposal at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 2:23:37 PM

Elected Officials of City of Santa Clara:

I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

These are some urgent questions that must be satisfactorily answered before any proposal can be considered. I urge you to immediately vote NO on the proposed homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

1) What are the successful rate of the homeless people who entered the shelter and later finding permeant housing? According to statistics from the two nearby locations, MTV and Milpitas, the homeless who entered these facilities and later finding permeant home is less than 20%! This is clearly a waste of tax dollars! We need to work on improving the failing existing homeless shelters before building more of them. Repeating a failed model will only result in failure. Are there any plan to improve the outcome of the two existing shelters before we proposing more?

2) How do Santa Clara County and City Santa Clara ensure the safety of the 11,000 children who are attending the more than 15 schools near the proposed homeless site? The failed experiment at MTV and Milpitas clearly have shown crimes have shot up 300% after the shelter was built at the surrounding neighborhood. What is County's plan on the safety of 11,000 children?

3) The homeless people who don't find permeant housing (less than 20%! successful rate) and who are at the end of their stay, are they just going to be forced out of the shelter? They are going to congregate near the shelter site, thereby impacting the immediate neighborhood. It will only get worse as time goes by! There will be more and more homeless at our neighborhood. This is not solving the homeless problem. It is just dumping the homeless, and issues that come with homeless at our neighborhood. We must stop this from happening. What is the County's plan to mitigate this problem?

4) If as proposed the "interim homeless shelter" will take on the "most challenged homeless", what kind of security force does a 200+ persons homeless shelter comes with? One clearly would expect a higher ration of

security force for the "most challenged homeless". An 20 persons security force (an one to ten ratio) may or may not even be able to handle the situations that surely will arise. Have the County done any study on this matter, and will the County provide the security force?

5) This lot has been used for community activities for many many years, such as pumpkin patch's, Christmas tree sales and more. Where will the local kids go if the County takes away this activities lot? What will the County provide as an alternative?

6) A homeless shelter is not a jail. Therefore the homeless are free to go in and out of the shelter, as I understand it. And keep in mind these are the "most challenging homeless". 200+ "interim homeless shelter" residents will be doing their "business" and wandering around the immediate neighborhood. With the concentration of 200+ "most challenging homeless", many no doubt with drug additions at this location, drug dealers will be attracted to come; it is well documented a concentration of homeless people will attract drug dealers, as in Tenderloin, San Francisco. How many additional fulltime police officers are assigned to this precinct for this proposed project?

7) What does Santa Clara County plan to do when at the end of their "interim" stay, when a homeless does not find permeant housing? Does the county have any plan to bus them back to where they were found? Or the county just let them out and hope for the best? Where does the county think the homeless will go? The answer is very obvious. They will just walk into the immediate neighborhood, OUR neighborhood! Does the County has any busing plan to move the homeless to where they want to go?

8) If the "interim homeless shelter" is a drug free environment as stated, what kind of medical help is provided for the 200+ persons homeless at the shelter? We can't expect a drug addict to become clean on the day he/she moved into the shelter. If he/she can not find help at the shelter, he/she will be doing drug near the shelter, in nearby parks, at the school yards, in our neighborhood! With the shelter's plan to admit the "most challenged homeless", there got to be a high number of doctors and nurses on site to meet the challenges. How many doctor and nurse does the County plan to assign to this shelter full time?

Clearly the County needs to do much more extensive studies before proposing 2350 Benton Street for an interim housing development.

***Please vote NO on homeless shelter** at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway!*

Best Regards,

Wo Family
Residents of City of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: LS Support Letter Benton/Lawrence
Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 2:58:52 PM
Attachments: LS Support Letter BentonLawrence.pdf

Angela Rausch attached a document

Angela Rausch ([redacted] has attached the following document: Learn more.

Our support letter for Benton/Lawrence, Regards. Angela Rausch and Livable Sunnyvale Board

LS Support Letter Benton/Lawrence

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Meeting #4
Date: Friday, March 24, 2023 11:28:21 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png

Hello Consuelo,

I hope you are well Thank you for the additional information at meeting #4

I learned from a neighbor that residents on Tracy Dr in Santa Clara received flyers from the county about the meeting Our area, which ranges from 250ft to several thousand feet away, has not received flyers from the county, potentially because it is both Santa Clara and Sunnyvale Is there a way we can close that gap with sufficient time before the input deadline of April 7?

While I know the meetings are wrapped up, for the future, just an idea I believe there is a way limit the Zoom chat to communication with Panelists, similar to what was done by shutting off the Everyone feature This depends on the type of license

It was unfortunate that the chat became a social media tweet storm debate with supporters who joined with the primary goal of pushing back on opponents input That meeting is for residents that will be impacted long term by the project Supporters can hold their own community meetings if they wish to have a debate Some of the chat participants were fairly upset but upon review of the chat capture, those individuals were the antagonizers responding to opponents feedback entered for public record or as Q&A It was not the 'supporters' place to be responding to 'opponents' input

A number of people were queued up just beyond the last speaker and, evidently, it appeared there were supporters moved ahead of opponents, including a retired police officer who didn't get to speak This may have been a Zoom glitch We'd like to see the recording with full details to confirm that the order wasn't intentionally altered Many fear that if they cannot speak in the public forum, their input may not be heard via other channels

We greatly appreciate your help keeping the property owners up to date and giving them an opportunity to provide their input based on facts rather than rumors Renters can pick up and move Property owners cannot

Sierra

On Mar 10, 2023, at 4:52 PM, Hernandez, [redacted] wrote:

Perfect If you let me know on Monday I can coordinate on our end

Thanks for sending the map I think there may also be an opportunity for us to list the schools by distance in a simple table

Appreciate you sending the maps over Have a wonderful weekend and look forward to connecting next week

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP
Director, Office of Supportive Housing
[redacted]

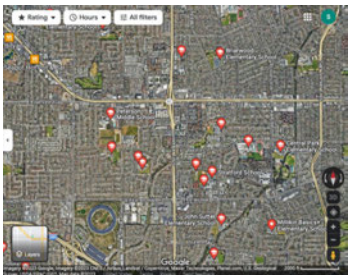
From: goog le[redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 2:49 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo[redacted]
Cc: Adam Marcus[redacted] Marie Jackson[redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Analysis - Unsheltered by City

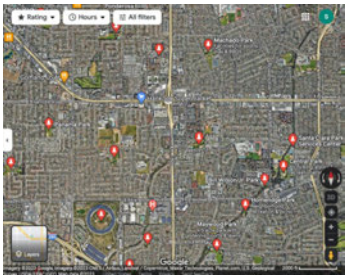
Hi Consuelo,

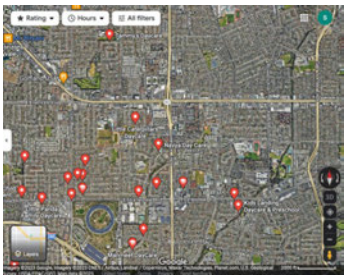
Thank you for your message I will check with a few folks on their availability I might be on jury duty next week I hope to know on Monday whether or not I'll be called

I forgot to ask if you needed maps? It looked like the map in the presentation was showing the east side of Lawrence The west side has several schools, childcares, parks, an older family cabana club even closer to the location It's a bit of a challenge to capture everything on one map so apologies for providing three different maps centered on Benton and Lawrence (schools, parks, child care) They list most but not all It probably depends on whether or not they advertise on google Hopefully, these are somewhat helpful

Thanks again!







On Mar 9, 2023, at 11:34 PM, Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted] wrote:

Thank you for chatting with me this evening and sending the information Would you be open to having a smaller group discussion to discuss the data? We could accommodate via zoom and bring our data team

Unfortunately the format of the meeting didn t really allow the space for a real discussion We have some ideas planned for the next zoom meeting but also interested in connecting with people direct or in small groups

Let us know either way and we can work out the logistics on our end

Thank you for engaging with us Have a wonderful evening

Consuelo

Get Outlook for iOS

From: goog le [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 11:14:49 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: Adam Marcus [redacted] Marie Jackson [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Analysis - Unsheltered by City

Hi Consuelo,

Thank you for sharing the additional information this evening

As promised, I've attached the analysis of the homeless data by city as well as a subset below Since there isn't a lot of data on where each person landed, we're left with broad assumptions Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or ideas, or if you see any errors in the analysis If you have new data, I would be happy to help analyze that as well

I think the local community would be willing to work with your teams to find options that are a bit less extreme and would benefit everyone, as daunting a task as that might sound We're a large contingent of tech professionals, engineers and software developers that love to solve problems It often helps to state the problem/goal and have them provide recommendations so they can be a part of the solution

Thank you

Jurisdiction	Unsheltered 2019	Unsheltered 2022	CHANGE	CHANGE	RANK 2019	RANK 2022
Mountain View	574	206	**(368)**	-64%	2	9
Sunnyvale	477	279	**(198)**	-42%	3	4
San Jose	5117	4975	**(142)**	-3%	1	1
Cupertino	159	102	**(57)**	-36%	8	10
Morgan Hill	114	60	**(54)**	-47%	10	12
Palo Alto	299	263	**(36)**	-12%	5	5
Other	270	254	**(16)**	-6%	6	6
Los Altos	76	65	**(11)**	-14%	11	11
Saratoga	10	0	**(10)**	-100%	14	14
Los Altos Hills	2	0	**(2)**	-100%	15	14

TOTAL OF CITIES THAT SAW A REDUCTION OF UNSHELTERED			(894)	**LEFT THESE CITIES OR WERE HOUSED**		
Monte Sereno	0	0	**0**		16	14
Other Conf	0	0	**0**		16	14
Los Gatos	16	58	**42**	263%	13	13
Santa Clara	264	375	**111**	42%	7	3
Milpitas	125	249	**124**	99%	9	7
Campbell	74	216	**142**	192%	12	8
Gilroy	345	606	**261**	76%	4	2
TOTAL OF CITIES THAT SAW AN INCREASE OF UNSHELTERED			**680**	**WERE ADDED TO THESE THESE CITIES**		

On Mar 9, 2023, at 4 05 PM, Hernandez, Consuelo <Consuelo Hernandez@hhs sccgov org> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for signing up to receive updates on the proposed Interim Housing Development at Benton and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara We appreciate your continued engagement Below are a few updates posted on the project website

- Tonight! Community Meeting No 3 is taking place this evening at 6 00PM at the Mission City Church located at 1290 Pomeroy Avenue The meeting will be recorded and both the meeting materials and video will be posted on the project website by Monday, March 13th In response to community feedback, the format for this meeting will be primarily a "Question and Answer Session"
- New Information has been posted on the website including neighborhood maps and partial responses to the Q&A from the First Community Meeting
- Community Meeting No 4 will be held via zoom on Wednesday, March 22nd from 6-8PM Join the Zoom Meeting https://sccgov-org zoom us/j/94536865765

A Santa Clara City Council public hearing will be scheduled for April 25th If you would like to be notified, please sign up for email updates athttps://docs google com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvqekJ_RgyyalhYwQ5Gu08L64tBbZAYSbeGQGX2O14Q6f4Ig/viewform

Thank you for staying engaged with us

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP
Director, Office of Supportive Housing
[redacted]

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NOTICE: This email message and/or its attachments may contain information that is confidential or restricted. t is intended only for the individuals named as recipients in the message. If you are NOT an authorized recipient, you are prohibited from using, delivering, distributing, printing, copying, or disclosing the message or content to others and must delete the message from your computer. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by return email.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: No to the homeless project on Lawrence
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 7:35:40 PM

No

--
Gurinder Dhillon

From: No Homekey in Birdland Benton
Subject: One Size Does Not Fit All - No Shelter on Benton
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 2:29:41 PM

Dear City, County, State, and Federal elected representatives:

Providing low barrier 'interim' housing for the majority of the homeless will amplify existing issues. Putting the homeless together in a crowded facility to meet state mandates is unsafe for them and the neighbors.

The 2022 county PIT survey speaks for itself:
> 42% have a psychiatric/emotional condition of unknown severity
> 32% have alcohol/drug abuse
> 25% have spent a night in jail in the past year (not including the ones who were immediately released)

According to public records, LifeMoves Mountain View had more than 140 POLICE CALLS/INCIDENTS in 2022, ranging from alarms to public INTOXICATION to RAPE and domestic VIOLENCE. This is ONLY ONE ADDRESS, not the surrounding businesses and residents. Prior to the opening of the facility, there were 1-2 per year.

Milpitas 1000 Hillview now sees hundreds per year, for ONE ADDRESS.

This IS NOT a policing issue. It is a CITY, COUNTY and STATE STRATEGIC ISSUE that is being dumped on communities and public safety without thinking it through.

We know you are smart. Very smart. And will do the right thing for your constituents...

> If the County wishes to place these facilities in cities next to homes, provide on-site 24/7 county sheriff and fire coverage. Sounds expensive, doesn't it?

> If you would like to serve the population that has serious psychiatric issues, build a mental health facility with APPROPRIATE staffing required by the state.

> If you would like to serve those with substance abuse, build a rehab facility with APPROPRIATE staffing required by the state.

> If you would like to serve criminals that were released on bail due to overcrowding or lax penalties, build a facility with APPROPRIATE staffing that requires proof of employment, provides job training and has solid security.

> If you want to help permanently house the homeless, build permanent apartments.

> If you simply want to put people inside a building in our neighborhood, NO drugs, NO criminal records, and NO serious mental health issues that put them or others in danger. Problem is, if we accept this promise, we know it will be broken.

DO NOT 'HOUSE' THEM OUTSIDE OUR DOORS while you build the appropriate facilities.

We have a zero tolerance policy. This means ZERO TOLERANCE for drug or alcohol consumption/dealing within several miles of the facility, schools, homes, and parks, not just on the property.

LifeMoves/InnVision and other homelessness services (e.g. Abode) have already demonstrated they cannot manage these populations effectively for decades.

We know LifeMoves will not remove tenants for breaking the rules nor will they be able to search private rooms without a warrant.

Do NOT put this population in our neighborhood unless the city and county want to spend the next several years in court dealing with injunctions, providing compensation for victims, and destroying the this area for both businesses and residents.

We DO NOT accept another interim housing facility in this area. Choose a light industrial or commercial area miles away from schools, parks, and thousands of homes. The county has plenty of property elsewhere, thousands of acres of parks. There are bus routes there too or you can provide a shuttle and bring services to them. They don't need a grocery store...they won't have kitchens. Tthey'll have meals delivered and food pantries.

Providing another interim housing facility sets this area up for a NEVER ENDING PIPELINE of HUNDREDS of the county's homeless with serious issues and will destroy our neighborhood.

If that's your goal, please let us and the media know NOW.

And, most of all, please DO NOT force residents to find less-preferable ways to protect themselves like other cities have had to do. Most are not professionally trained and people will get hurt.

Residents have rights too.

We are tired of this conversation that is wasting a lot of people's time. We should be focusing on our families and livelihoods.



Mountain View



Milipitas



From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:03:52 PM

My name is Chris Zhang , a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative.
City and county need to find non-residential land for the facility like this.
I'm counting on you.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:05:27 PM

My name is Jimmy Matson, a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find non-residential land for the facility like this.
I'm counting on you.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter, Wrong location
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:20:18 PM

Hello,

My name is Ray de Leon , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find a non-residential land for the facility like this. I'm counting on you.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: OPPOSE BENTON SHELTER
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 4:44:26 PM

Oppose Benton Shelter

My name is Grace Tzeng , resident of Santa Clara. I and my husband, Shawying Chien, strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.
County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.

2. ***Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!)***

3. **The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood**

4. High operation cost of $4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from $17M to $34.4M only one year after its approval!

5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse

6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs

7. County providing false and misleading info

8. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Sincerely ,
Grace Tzeng and Shawying Chien
[redacted]
Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Opposing Benton-Lawrence Homeless Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 8:27:17 PM

Hi,

I'm a Santa Clara resident and I live on Thrush way, walking distance away from the proposed homeless shelter. I strongly oppose building the low-barrier shelter in dense residential area. The Mountain View site is built in the center of industrial area, and why can't we just follow them? I don't understand why proposing a similar location when white oak shelter was rejected less than a year ago.

Please vote 'NO' to this.

Best,
Frey

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Please do not build low barrier entry Temporary Housing at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 9:30:33 AM

Dear Respected Mr. Marcus,
Good morning.

I live with my family on Golden State drive, less than 1000 feet away from the site of proposed low barrier entry temporary housing. I strongly oppose building a low barrier entry temporary housing at Benton and Lawrence. The long term safety concerns and questions from the residents of the community were not addressed adequately or in most cases ignored during and after the community meetings. This tells me that the project is not well thought through in terms of security risks and dangers it poses for the areas surrounding and close to the proposed low barrier entry temporary housing.

We have a beautiful and safe neighborhood. Please leave it like that. Please do not build a low barrier entry temporary housing at Benton and Lawrence. Instead consider alternatives like building permanent housing for low income families, for essential employees who cannot afford to live in the area, for temporary housing of homeless families etc that do not pose security dangers to the neighborhood.

Again, I strongly oppose the building of low barrier entry temporary housing at Benton and Lawrence.

Have a great day.
Thanks,
Chandrasekhar Maddipatla

Get Outlook for iOS

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Please Review data on Benton Project and Comparable Shelters in Santa Clara County
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 9:00:27 PM

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

The discussion surrounding the Benton project has continued for nearly two months, and recently, more data and news articles have emerged revealing serious issues with existing Bay Area homeless shelters. The information raises doubts about the reliability of promises made by the county, builders, and management/operation companies. I implore you to thoroughly review the data and resources provided at the end of this email.

Upon examining the data, it becomes evident that the Benton project is unsuitable for its location, Santa Clara, and its intended purpose. For example:

- The permanent supportive housing at 1000 Hillview Ct, Milpitas, has experienced striking crime statistics, with total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022. The average police service time is close to 50 hours per month, and crimes include assault, drug-related offenses, burglary, rape, sex offender incidents, stolen vehicles, and other suspicious circumstances. Mayor Carmen and Councilmember Chua challenged the county's admission criteria, claiming that the screening process was not working and problematic tenants and drug addictions were not being removed. Milpitas has asked the County for additional police officers to patrol the site, yet to receive any responses.

- LifeMoves' Mountain View at 2566 Leghorn St, opened at the end of 2020, has seen police calls rise from 3 in 2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022. This site has also failed in its mission to assist the homeless. With only 26% of clients placed in permanent housing, disqualified management and staffing (including staff under arrest warrant for physical assault), and a lack of specialized housing service, LifeMoves Mountain View has the second-lowest success rate in the county.

- LifeMoves' Palo Alto project has seen its cost estimate soar from $17 million to $34.4 million within just a year of approval. To cut costs, LifeMoves is

removing 24/7 security and supportive services and decreasing family spaces. The City of Palo Alto is facing a $6 million funding gap, which only covers construction costs and does not account for the rising operational costs that will increase year after year.

While you may argue that these shelters differ from the proposed Benton project, the fact remains that each site faces problems. This suggests that the current model is fundamentally flawed and should not be replicated further. I urge you to consider these concerns and rethink the Benton project's viability.

--
Huasha Zhao

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Project on Benton and Lawrence
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 2:58:16 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Regards
Denisse Tostado
Resident of 95051
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Proposed Benton and Lawrence interim housing
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 10:21:25 PM

To Consuelo Hernández and Adam Marcus:

I believe the way this proposed interim housing has been communicated has been very poor

First to notify resident by postcards within 1,000 feet is hardly sufficient This interim housing impacts people in a much larger circumference, it should have been no less than a mile for notification

Second, the comparison to the Palo Alto and San Jose housing locations is not really valid, as neither are currently in operation

Third, if you review the attached two article regarding the LifeMoves facility in Mountain View, it isn't effectively operating against its intended purpose How can you with any type of integrity move forward on this proposal with the knowledge of what is brought forward in these articles? This would be a blatant disservice to the residents of Santa Clara I for one have had a a frightening encounter with a homeless man within a few blocks from my house that left bloody handprints on my car When the police came out and I described the man, they knew exactly who I was talking about because they had interactions with him before I have been afraid to walk my dogs since I shouldn't have to be afraid in my own neighborhood Bringing in additional homeless people from all over Santa Clara County to this low barrier facility within a few blocks of my house will only increase my concerns of not feeling safe



LifeMoves Mountain View promises to help homeless clients find stable housing in three months. The majority of them don't
paloaltoonline.com

https://www paloaltoonline com/news/2023/03/30/life-moves-mountain-view-aims-to-house-people-in-just-three-months-experts-say-that-its-model-doesnt-work?utm_source=express-2023-04-06&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=express&utm_source=Embarcadero+Mailing+List+%28including+SLJ+Members%29&utm_campaign=a2057da414-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_04_06_05_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ba1b002ad7-a2057da414-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

If the city has nothing to hide, you would have provided a larger communication to the residents of Santa Clara We should not be hasty in selecting a location to build something like this and ensure we are providing the right and effective resources - as we can now see by what has happened in the Mountain View location
I feel at the very least this should be a proposal the RESIDENTS of Santa Clara should be able to vote on

Best,
Vickie Crawford
Resident and homeowner in Santa Clara since 1996

From: No Homekey in Birdland Benton
To: [redacted]
Subject: Q&A Answers not visible
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 10:09:14 PM

Hello,
We wanted to let you know that the answers in the Q&A are not visible in a large portion of the pdf. It appears many of the cells were not expanded to display the full answer.

Please let us know when you've had the opportunity to upload the corrected document. https://osh.sccgov.org/sites/g/files/exjcpb671/files/documents/QAResponses_20230321_BL_Mtg1.pdf

Thank you
Birdland Neighbors

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Question
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 4:19:47 PM

Hi,

I am very much in support of the housing project on Lawrence and Benton. I have a question just because I'm trying to gather as much information as possible.

Can you tell me more about the support services that will be on site, and how they work? Especially things like counselling and healthcare. What is onsite vs what is referred out, how the referral process works, etc.

Thanks,
R. Elysa Gurman (she/they)

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Questions for Lawrence and Benton Project
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 2:35:43 PM
Attachments: homeless meeting 3.docx

Attached are questions I submitted at the previous meeting. I have not heard back, so I'm sending it along to make sure it enters the record.

I have some additional questions about the proposed project:

1. Is it possible to get the reports and data that were made by the people who recommended this project location?
2. Can we see the locations that were accessed and rejected, and the reasons why?
3. Along those lines, is there a list of all county, state, or city owned land in Santa Clara, along with a description of its condition and current use?
4. There has been presentations about how the new location wll be safe for the clients. How about revealing how it will be safe for the neighborhood?
5. Given the presence of other nearby shelters on El Camino, it seems they are being clustered in the "Koreatown" neighborhood. Is this a deliberate choice, and if so, why?

Thank you for your attention to these questions.

David Melius
[redacted]

From: puredancing
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:09:27 PM

Hello Consuelo,

Follow up on my email from yesterday - we request that **you add 1-2 co-host who we nominate to host together with you for the 3/22 zoom community meeting, and we request you to make participants list, chat, and discussion board visible to all.** We request those because we saw and experienced cheating and manipulating of our opinion during the 3/9 community hearing. Therefore, we need to help you to make sure the 3/22 hearing is a transparent, fair and unbiased hearing truly representing opinions from the neighbour.

In the 3/9 in person meeting, there were at least 5 speakers who support this project who came from house advocate organizations (and none of them live in our neighbourhood), one of them told us that you invited her to come. There was at least one speaker who was a student of Ken Yeager. Ken Yeager brought a group of students as well. I talked to the student after the meeting, he has little context for the Benton Project. He even could not tell where exactly the project will be built. He said his professor (Ken Yeager) asked him to come. **All of those behaviors during the public community hearing are considered cheating and manipulating public opinion. Those are unacceptable.**

Given what has happened in the 3/9 meeting, the 3/22 Zoom meeting, without monitoring and supervision, can only be worse. Therefore, to make sure that the 3/22 meeting is transparent and unbiased, we request that **we nominate 1-2 people to co-host with you. Also please make participants list, chat, and discussion board visible to all.**

I will think about your idea of having another in-person public community meeting and get back to you later.

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023 at 4:46 PM puredancing [redacted] wrote:

> Hi Consuelo,
>
> In the 3/9 in person meeting, there were at least 5 speakers who support this project who came from house advocate organizations (and none of them live in our neighbourhood), one of them told us that you invited her to come. There was at least one speaker who was a student of Ken Yeager. Ken Yeager brought a group of students as well. I talked to the student after the meeting, he has little context for the Benton Project. He even could not tell where exactly the project will be built. He said his professor (Ken Yeager) asked him to come. **All of those behaviors during the public community hearing are considered cheating and manipulating public opinion. Those are unacceptable.**
>
> Given what has happened in the 3/9 meeting, the 3/22 Zoom meeting, without monitoring and supervision, can only be worse. Therefore, to make sure that the 3/22 meeting is

transparent and unbiased, we request that **we nominate 1-2 people to co-host with you. Also please make participants list, chat, and discussion board visible to all.**

I will think about your idea of having another in-person public community meeting and get back to you later.

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 5:50 PM Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted] wrote:

> Hi Cindy,
>
> We heard from the community that they would like to engage in small group discussions. There is a function in zoom that allows breakout rooms. This is typically manageable when we have 100 – 150 people in attendance but we anticipate there will be at least 400 people like the first zoom meeting we held. As such, we are working through the logistics.
>
> As staff we do not organize groups that support or oppose the proposal. Our summary of the meeting will include a note that identifies the advocacy group that made comments in support of the project. I was not aware of a SJSU group but will ask our team to go back and watch the recording to see if anyone identified themselves specifically as a SJSU student.
>
> I think a better idea would be for us to set up a separate and additional meeting where you can control the guest list and invite the project team to speak. We have done this in other communities, and it has led to a better discussion with a smaller group of concerned and direct neighbors.
>
> Please let me know if you are interested and we can work on setting up a date and time before the City Council meeting on April 25th. We can also meet to discuss the logistics of hosting such a meeting and if it makes sense have representatives from your different neighborhood groups attend.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Consuelo Hernandez, AICP
>
> Director, Office of Supportive Housing
>
> [redacted]

From: puredancing <[redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 5:31 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted];
[redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

Hello Consuelo,

Can you be more specific about "we are working on setting up the meeting in a way that will allow for small group discussions"? Who will be included in this "small group discussion"? How can you make sure they will represent the neighborhood who live close to Benton location?

To answer your question, by "astroturfing" or "market false impressions of public support", I mean "institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community." There are at lease five of them from house advocate orgs, one told us that you invited her and a few others. Also there was a group of SJSU students who "were asked to come and support this project by our professor Ken Yeager" (quote from one of the students).

I understand you need to "always find a way to get it done", and you support the project at Benton location, but the way need to be transparent and unbiased. It cannot be like the 3/9 meeting, or the zoom meeting you hold for Crew View or Bella Visa where you invited supporters to cheat on public opinion. **To sum up, community meetings are to hear from local neighbourhood residents. They should be residents living within a short distance from Benton, NOT everyone. We people who live in the neighbourhood need to make sure the 3/22 meeting is for our NEIGHBOURHOOD.**

To do that, if you said you cannot change the format for the 3/22 meeting, we request that we nominate a co-host from our neighborhood to host the meeting together with you, so we can make sure the selection of speakers is transparent, and there won't be anything behind the screen on your end.

Also, we request you and the co-host make the comments and participants' list visible to everyone. If you have nothing going on behind the screen, I don't see a reason why you won't consider adjusting the zoom meeting settings.

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 15:54 Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted] > wrote:

> Hi Cindy,
>
> I am not exactly sure what you are referring to when you say “astroturfing” or “market false impressions of public support”. Our primary engagement has been with the local community and we invited everyone in attendance last week to speak. People were fairly provided with 1 minute each to speak. We also collected many comment cards that will be shared and included in our Community Engagement Report. Our objective is to share what we heard during the community meetings and have been transparently posting the materials and recordings of the meetings on the project website.
>
> We are hosting the March 22nd meeting via zoom in response to concerns from the community who were not able to attend the in-person meetings. This announcement has already been made and we are working on setting up the meeting in a way that will allow for small group discussions. We will be sending postcards to the neighborhood within a 1,000 foot radius in the coming week.
>
> If there is a desire to host a different type of meeting before the City Council meeting on April 25th I would be happy to explore that with you and others in the neighborhood.
>
> Thank you for staying engaged and sharing your thoughts.
>
> Consuelo Hernandez, AICP
>
> Director, Office of Supportive Housing
>
> [redacted]
>
> ---
>
> **From:** puredancing [redacted] >
> **Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2023 3:14 PM

To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]>;
[redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

Hello Consuelo and Adam,

My name is Cindy and I live in Birdland neighborhood. I want to **strongly express my indignation and concern regarding the practice of astroturfing before in the third hearing held on March 9th, and for the upcoming meeting on 3/22.** Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community. This action to market false impressions of public support for the project sets up a plot to manipulate public opinion, a clear violation of the principles of law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

The 3/22 meeting will be on Zoom, which is much easier to manipulate community opinion and engage in astroturfing. To make sure that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased, I strongly recommend you to do the following changes to the meeting format:

1. Change to in-person meeting instead, as covid has already ended.

2. Add 1-2 co-hosts that the majority of the neighborhood recommend to co-host with you (our Safe SantaClara County volunteer group can recommend 1-2 person, and they will represent thousands of homes in our community). That person should have the same access and permission as you do.

3. All of you host the meet at the same place. For example, you can host the meeting together in Ms. Hernandez's office.

4. Open the chat, discussion and participant's list and make them visible to all participants.

Again, I hope you both are on the same page with us for a transparent community meeting, which will **not presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents, will not engage in astroturfing anymore.**

> Best,
>
> Cindy
>
> NOTICE: This email message and/or its attachments may contain information that is confidential or restricted. It is intended only for the individuals named as recipients in the message. If you are NOT an authorized recipient, you are prohibited from using, delivering, distributing, printing, copying, or disclosing the message or content to others and must delete the message from your computer. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by return email.

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 4:46:59 PM

Hi Consuelo,

In the 3/9 in person meeting, there were at least 5 speakers who support this project who came from house advocate organizations (and none of them live in our neighbourhood), one of them told us that you invited her to come. There was at least one speaker who was a student of Ken Yeager. Ken Yeager brought a group of students as well. I talked to the student after the meeting, he has little context for the Benton Project. He even could not tell where exactly the project will be built. He said his professor (Ken Yeager) asked him to come. **All of those behaviors during the public community hearing are considered cheating and manipulating public opinion. Those are unacceptable.**

Given what has happened in the 3/9 meeting, the 3/22 Zoom meeting, without monitoring and supervision, can only be worse. Therefore, to make sure that the 3/22 meeting is transparent and unbiased, we request that **we nominate 1-2 people to co-host with you. Also please make participants list, chat, and discussion board visible to all.**

I will think about your idea of having another in-person public community meeting and get back to you later.

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 5:50 PM Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted] wrote:

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>
> We heard from the community that they would like to engage in small group discussions. There is a function in zoom that allows breakout rooms. This is typically manageable when we have 100 – 150 people in attendance but we anticipate there will be at least 400 people like the first zoom meeting we held. As such, we are working through the logistics.
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>
> I think a better idea would be for us to set up a separate and additional meeting where you can control the guest list and invite the project team to speak. We have done this in other

communities, and it has led to a better discussion with a smaller group of concerned and direct neighbors.

Please let me know if you are interested and we can work on setting up a date and time before the City Council meeting on April 25th. We can also meet to discuss the logistics of hosting such a meeting and if it makes sense have representatives from your different neighborhood groups attend.

Thanks,

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

Director, Office of Supportive Housing

[redacted]

From: puredancing [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 5:31 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]>;
[redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

Hello Consuelo,

Can you be more specific about "we are working on setting up the meeting in a way that will allow for small group discussions"? Who will be included in this "small group discussion"? How can you make sure they will represent the neighborhood who live close to Benton location?

To answer your question, by "astroturfing" or "market false impressions of public support", I mean "institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community." There are at lease five of them from house advocate orgs, one told us that you invited her and a few others. Also there was a group of SJSU students who "were asked to come and support this project by our professor Ken Yeager" (quote from one of the students).

I understand you need to ”always find a way to get it done”, and you support the project at Benton location, but the way need to be transparent and unbiased. It cannot be like the 3/9 meeting, or the zoom meeting you hold for Crew View or Bella Visa where you invited supporters to cheat on public opinion. **To sum up, community meetings are to hear from local neighbourhood residents. They should be residents living within a short distance from Benton, NOT everyone. We people who live in the neighbourhood need to make sure the 3/22 meeting is for our NEIGHBOURHOOD.**

To do that, if you said you cannot change the format for the 3/22 meeting, we request that we nominate a co-host from our neighborhood to host the meeting together with you, so we can make sure the selection of speakers is transparent, and there won't be anything behind the screen on your end.

Also, we request you and the co-host make the comments and participants' list visible to everyone. If you have nothing going on behind the screen, I don't see a reason why you won't consider adjusting the zoom meeting settings.

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 15:54 Hernandez, Consuelo <[redacted]org> wrote:

> Hi Cindy,
>
> I am not exactly sure what you are referring to when you say “astroturfing” or “market false impressions of public support”. Our primary engagement has been with the local community and we invited everyone in attendance last week to speak. People were fairly provided with 1 minute each to speak. We also collected many comment cards that will be shared and included in our Community Engagement Report. Our objective is to share what we heard during the community meetings and have been transparently posting the materials and recordings of the meetings on the project website.
>
> We are hosting the March 22nd meeting via zoom in response to concerns from the community who were not able to attend the in-person meetings. This announcement has already been made and we are working on setting up the meeting in a way that will allow for small group discussions. We will be sending postcards to the neighborhood within a 1,000 foot radius in the coming week.
>
> If there is a desire to host a different type of meeting before the City Council meeting on

April 25th I would be happy to explore that with you and others in the neighborhood.

Thank you for staying engaged and sharing your thoughts.

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

Director, Office of Supportive Housing

[redacted]

From: puredancing <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:14 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]>;
[redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

Hello Consuelo and Adam,

My name is Cindy and I live in Birdland neighborhood. I want to **strongly express my indignation and concern regarding the practice of astroturfing before in the third hearing held on March 9th, and for the upcoming meeting on 3/22.** Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community. This action to market false impressions of public support for the project sets up a plot to manipulate public opinion, a clear violation of the principles of law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

The 3/22 meeting will be on Zoom, which is much easier to manipulate community opinion and engage in astroturfing. To make sure that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased, I strongly recommend you to do the following changes to the meeting format:

1. Change to in-person meeting instead, as covid has already ended.

2. Add 1-2 co-hosts that the majority of the neighborhood recommend to co-host with you (our Safe SantaClara County volunteer group can recommend 1-2 person, and they will represent thousands of homes in our community). That person should have the same access and permission as you do.

3. All of you host the meet at the same place. For example, you can host the meeting together in Ms. Hernandez's office.

4. Open the chat, discussion and participant's list and make them visible to all participants.

Again, I hope you both are on the same page with us for a transparent community meeting, which will **not presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents, will not engage in astroturfing anymore.**

Best,

Cindy

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 5:50:04 PM

Hello Consuelo,

Thanks for getting back. It's good to know that you were trying to get the chat and participants list visible to all attendants. I want to follow up on this to see if you have successfully made both functions work?

Also you mentioned briefly last week that the last meeting will be a small group discussion. I would like to get more details on what that means and how you are going to organize it.

Beside this request, I also have another request which is **to add a co-host we nominate to host the final hearing together with you**. GIven the practice of astroturfing during the 3/9 meeting, I believe having a co-host we nominate is the least we can do to make sure the 3/22 zoom meeting is transparent and unbiased. I believe we are already aligned on holding a transparent community meeting. Unless you are thinking otherwise, I don't see a reason you reject this creative and great idea.

To your point on "Just like at any other public meeting, speakers line up and are given the opportunity to speak in order." I'd like to remind you that the idea of lining up to speak was not your original idea, but came from an audience in the 2nd hearing. I'm glad you adopted that idea from the audience, and hope you can do the same for the final zoom meeting. Again, for both ideas, the goal is the same - to make the community meeting transparent and fair to all speakers.

To you point on "As it relates to the March 9th meeting, we have identified the same 5 speakers in attendance that spoke on behalf of organizations who do not live in the neighborhood. That is documented via the meeting recording, here in our email exchange, and will be included in the Community Engagement report." I'm glad you labeled those 5 speakers after I emailed you and pointed it out to you, **but it's more than 5. There are at least 2 additional speakers who were "invited" to show support and didn't live closeby.** One is a student from Santa Clara University, and another is a student from San Jose State University and is the student of Ken Yeager. **I would also like to remind you it's the second time in a month that you gave the wrong number. T**he first time is that you said there are only 4 schools within 1.5 miles, which is far from correct. The correct number is 15 (speaking of the school map, the one on the website is STILL WRONG. You didn't count all the schools west of Lawrence). **That those far from accurate numbers and all the mistakes again and again make me really worried about the work quality and accuracy you and your team can carry. Those work include but are not limited to the community feedback report you are preparing for the decision makers.**

On Thu, Mar 16, 2023 at 10:59 PM Hernandez, Consuelo <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Cindy,

Thank you for the feedback. We are still working on the details of the meeting and testing the zoom functions so that we can activate the chat function and setting the meeting up so that attendees can see each other. This should address your request to see the participant list and chat.

As it relates to the March 9th meeting, we have identified the same 5 speakers in attendance that spoke on behalf of organizations who do not live in the neighborhood. That is documented via the meeting recording, here in our email exchange, and will be included in the Community Engagement report.

Just like at any other public meeting, speakers line up and are given the opportunity to speak in order. At the March 9th meeting, we provided each speaker with a minute to speak and the timer was projected on the screen so that it was visible to every member of the audience. We will be following the same process virtually. This is consistent with how City Council and Board of Supervisor meetings are handled. Zoom automatically lists people with a raised hand in the order they raised their hand and we take speakers in that order.

I look forward to hearing back from you on the offer to have a meeting that you organize and where we can answer questions you and other neighbors may have.

Thank you for staying engaged with us throughout this process. Have a great night.

Consuelo

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From: puredancing <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:09 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] khardy [redacted]; [redacted]; Kathy Watanabe [redacted]; Lisa Gillmor [redacted] rchahal [redacted]; [redacted]; kleincouncil [redacted] MeltonCouncil [redacted] Ellenberg, Supervisor [redacted] Supervisor.Lee [redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

Hello Consuelo,

Follow up on my email from yesterday - we request that **you add 1-2 co-host who we nominate to host together with you for the 3/22 zoom community meeting, and we**

request you to make participants list, chat, and discussion board visible to all. We request those because we saw and experienced cheating and manipulating of our opinion during the 3/9 community hearing. Therefore, we need to help you to make sure the 3/22 hearing is a transparent, fair and unbiased hearing truly representing opinions from the neighbour.

In the 3/9 in person meeting, there were at least 5 speakers who support this project who came from house advocate organizations (and none of them live in our neighbourhood), one of them told us that you invited her to come. There was at least one speaker who was a student of Ken Yeager. Ken Yeager brought a group of students as well. I talked to the student after the meeting, he has little context for the Benton Project. He even could not tell where exactly the project will be built. He said his professor (Ken Yeager) asked him to come. **All of those behaviors during the public community hearing are considered cheating and manipulating public opinion. Those are unacceptable.**

Given what has happened in the 3/9 meeting, the 3/22 Zoom meeting, without monitoring and supervision, can only be worse. Therefore, to make sure that the 3/22 meeting is transparent and unbiased, we request that **we nominate 1-2 people to co-host with you. Also please make participants list, chat, and discussion board visible to all.**

I will think about your idea of having another in-person public community meeting and get back to you later.

On Wed, Mar 15, 2023 at 4:46 PM puredancing [redacted] > wrote:

> Hi Consuelo,
>
> In the 3/9 in person meeting, there were at least 5 speakers who support this project who came from house advocate organizations (and none of them live in our neighbourhood), one of them told us that you invited her to come. There was at least one speaker who was a student of Ken Yeager. Ken Yeager brought a group of students as well. I talked to the student after the meeting, he has little context for the Benton Project. He even could not tell where exactly the project will be built. He said his professor (Ken Yeager) asked him to come. **All of those behaviors during the public community hearing are considered cheating and manipulating public opinion. Those are unacceptable.**
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>
> I will think about your idea of having another in-person public community meeting and get back to you later.
>
> On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 5:50 PM Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted] wrote:
>
> > Hi Cindy,

We heard from the community that they would like to engage in small group discussions. There is a function in zoom that allows breakout rooms. This is typically manageable when we have 100 – 150 people in attendance but we anticipate there will be at least 400 people like the first zoom meeting we held. As such, we are working through the logistics.

As staff we do not organize groups that support or oppose the proposal. Our summary of the meeting will include a note that identifies the advocacy group that made comments in support of the project. I was not aware of a SJSU group but will ask our team to go back and watch the recording to see if anyone identified themselves specifically as a SJSU student.

I think a better idea would be for us to set up a separate and additional meeting where you can control the guest list and invite the project team to speak. We have done this in other communities, and it has led to a better discussion with a smaller group of concerned and direct neighbors.

Please let me know if you are interested and we can work on setting up a date and time before the City Council meeting on April 25th. We can also meet to discuss the logistics of hosting such a meeting and if it makes sense have representatives from your different neighborhood groups attend.

Thanks,

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

Director, Office of Supportive Housing

[redacted]

From: puredancing [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 5:31 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted];
[redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

Hello Consuelo,

Can you be more specific about "we are working on setting up the meeting in a way that will allow for small group discussions"? Who will be included in this "small group discussion"? How can you make sure they will represent the neighborhood who live close to Benton location?

To answer your question, by "astroturfing" or "market false impressions of public support", I mean "institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community." There are at lease five of them from house advocate orgs, one told us that you invited her and a few others. Also there was a group of SJSU students who "were asked to come and support this project by our professor Ken Yeager" (quote from one of the students).

I understand you need to "always find a way to get it done", and you support the project at Benton location, but the way need to be transparent and unbiased. It cannot be like the 3/9 meeting, or the zoom meeting you hold for Crew View or Bella Visa where you invited supporters to cheat on public opinion. **To sum up, community meetings are to hear from local neighbourhood residents. They should be residents living within a short distance from Benton, NOT everyone. We people who live in the neighbourhood need to make sure the 3/22 meeting is for our NEIGHBOURHOOD.**

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If there is a desire to host a different type of meeting before the City Council meeting on April 25th I would be happy to explore that with you and others in the neighborhood.

Thank you for staying engaged and sharing your thoughts.

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

Director, Office of Supportive Housing

[redacted]

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Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:14 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo <[redacted]>;
[redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

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From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Meeting #4
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 11:04:41 AM

Hello Consuelo,

Thank you for the reassuring information Clearly, there is no perfect way to hold the meetings but everyone appreciates that they were held We'd need several hours to allow everyone to provide their input

I can try to bring a group of folks together for a meeting, but I want to make sure it's a small group that will be collaborative and not attack each other or your team Everyone wants to see the homelessness situation resolved using an approach that will work for the community as a whole rather than beneficial for some and damaging for others

Personally, I'm more of a fan of smaller housing facilities rather than large projects we've seen fail decade after decade (century)

From what I'm hearing, the community would likely embrace permanent housing for families with children But they will forcefully reject and fight allowing adults with drug/alcohol/serious mental issues, and recent parolees and criminals The children would have lots of other kids in the neighborhood to play with and plenty of schools and after school programs to choose from Parents have enough to worry about these days

Older/Senior unhoused adults would be bored and lonely here They'd benefit by being near safe and active senior communities in Sunnyvale or Santa Clara downtown Working-age single adults need to be near drug rehab and job services/training (e g areas/towns with manufacturing/services jobs) Without a degree in engineering or computer science, there area very few job opportunities around here Even with those degrees, it's a challenge to compete with foreign workers brought in by large corporations and outsourcing

For mailers, I would suggest using direct mail lists within about a mile of the proposed site People walk a lot here so assume 15-30 min walking distance at 3 mph It should identify homeowners vs renters

Thanks again for staying in touch!

Sierra

On Mar 24, 2023, at 9:12 PM, Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted] wrote:

Hi Sierra,

Thank you for staying engaged throughout the process I am still hoping we can connect around the data in the coming weeks Perhaps we will find a way to publish the radius map so that people can see who is receiving a notification We save any and all returned postcards

In terms of the meeting, it's disheartening to hear that people feel we are somehow favoring some people over others

We worked to address the community concerns about the type of meeting by making changes that I would normally not support for a meeting that we know is going to draw significant participation Neighbors asked that we activate the chat and show everyone in the virtual audience We did that

There were over 100 people with their hands raised when we started the public comment period and only had 1 hour on the agenda for this Making it impossible for us to get through everyone who wanted to speak When we stopped there were still over 80 people in the queue to speak The speakers are automatically queued up by zoom We do not select the order This is exactly the way public meetings at the city council and county board meetings me are managed There is no way to show you this order as the recording doesn't capture that view If you set up a zoom meeting or webinar style and test this out with friends and family you will see that the list is displayed in your list in the order that they raised their hands We take names from the top of the list in order

We have been transparent during the meetings capturing the public sentiment and have introduced different ways in which the public can document their opinions Most recently this was done through
a polling function to show how people who attended the meeting felt about the project Yet there still seems to be distrust

If you have other ideas I'd love to hear them At this point I feel like we have been responsive to the various requests, we have offered another neighbor the opportunity to have a small group discussion with members of the neighborhood that are selected by you all, we have offered to attend a meeting where the neighbors host and we answer questions but they have not taken us up on that offer If there is interest we can start planning now and in advance of the April 25th city council meeting and actually have the opportunity to answer questions

Thank you again for staying engaged Have a wonderful weekend

Consuelo

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From: goog le[redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 11:28 AM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo <[redacted]
Cc: Adam Marcus[redacted]; Marie Jackson[redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting #4

Hello Consuelo,

I hope you are well Thank you for the additional information at meeting #4

I learned from a neighbor that residents on Tracy Dr in Santa Clara received flyers from the county about the meeting Our area, which ranges from 250ft to several thousand feet away, has not received flyers from the county, potentially because it is both Santa Clara and Sunnyvale Is there a way we can close that gap with sufficient time before the input deadline of April 7?

While I know the meetings are wrapped up, for the future, just an idea I believe there is a way limit the Zoom chat to communication with Panelists, similar to what was done by shutting off the Everyone feature This depends on the type of license

It was unfortunate that the chat became a social media tweet storm debate with supporters who joined with the primary goal of pushing back on opponents input That meeting is for residents that will be impacted long term by the project Supporters can hold their own community meetings if they wish to have a debate Some of the chat participants were fairly upset but upon review of the chat capture, those individuals were the antagonizers responding to opponents feedback entered for public record or

as Q&A It was not the 'supporters' place to be responding to 'opponents' input

A number of people were queued up just beyond the last speaker and, evidently, it appeared there were supporters moved ahead of opponents, including a retired police officer who didn't get to speak This may have been a Zoom glitch We'd like to see the recording with full details to confirm that the order wasn't intentionally altered Many fear that if they cannot speak in the public forum, their input may not be heard via other channels

We greatly appreciate your help keeping the property owners up to date and giving them an opportunity to provide their input based on facts rather than rumors Renters can pick up and move Property owners cannot

Sierra

On Mar 10, 2023, at 4:52 PM, Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]

Perfect If you let me know on Monday I can coordinate on our end

Thanks for sending the map I think there may also be an opportunity for us to list the schools by distance in a simple table

Appreciate you sending the maps over Have a wonderful weekend and look forward to connecting next week

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP
Director, Office of Supportive Housing
[redacted]

From: goog le <[redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 2:49 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo <[redacted]
Cc: Adam Marcus <[redacted] Marie Jackson <[redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Analysis - Unsheltered by City

Hi Consuelo,

Thank you for your message I will check with a few folks on their availability I might be on jury duty next week I hope to know on Monday whether or not I'll be called

I forgot to ask if you needed maps? It looked like the map in the presentation was showing the east side of Lawrence The west side has several schools, childcares, parks, an older family cabana club even closer to the location It's a bit of a challenge to capture everything on one map so apologies for providing three different maps centered on Benton and Lawrence (schools, parks, child care) They list most but not all It probably depends on whether or not they advertise on google Hopefully, these are somewhat helpful

Thanks again!

<image001 png>

<image002 png>

<image003 png>

On Mar 9, 2023, at 11:34 PM, Hernandez, Consuelo <[redacted] wrote:

Thank you for chatting with me this evening and sending the information Would you be open to having a smaller group discussion to discuss the data? We could accommodate via zoom and bring our data team

Unfortunately the format of the meeting didn t really allow the space for a real discussion We have some ideas planned for the next zoom meeting but also interested in connecting with people direct or in small groups

Let us know either way and we can work out the logistics on our end

Thank you for engaging with us Have a wonderful evening

Consuelo

Get Outlook for iOS

From: goog le <[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 11:14:49 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo <[redacted]
Cc: Adam Marcus <[redacted] Marie Jackson <[redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Analysis - Unsheltered by City

Hi Consuelo,

Thank you for sharing the additional information this evening

As promised, I've attached the analysis of the homeless data by city as well as a subset below Since there isn't a lot of data on where each person landed, we're left with broad assumptions Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or ideas, or if you see any errors in the analysis If you have new data, I would be happy to help analyze that as well

I think the local community would be willing to work with your teams to find options that are a bit less extreme and would benefit everyone, as daunting a task as that might sound We're a large contingent of tech professionals, engineers and software developers that love to solve problems It often helps to state the problem/goal and have them provide recommendations so they can be a part of the solution

Thank you

Jurisdiction	Unsheltered 2019	Unsheltered 2022	CHANGE	CHANGE	RANK 2019	RANK 2022
Mountain View	574	206	**(368)**	-64%	2	9
Sunnyvale	477	279	**(198)**	-42%	3	4
San Jose	5117	4975	**(142)**	-3%	1	1
Cupertino	159	102	**(57)**	-36%	8	10
Morgan Hill	114	60	**(54)**	-47%	10	12
Palo Alto	299	263	**(36)**	-12%	5	5
Other	270	254	**(16)**	-6%	6	6
Los Altos	76	65	**(11)**	-14%	11	11
Saratoga	10	0	**(10)**	-100%	14	14
Los Altos Hills	2	0	**(2)**	-100%	15	14
TOTAL OF CITIES THAT SAW A REDUCTION OF UNSHELTERED			(894)	**LEFT THESE CITIES OR WERE HOUSED**		
Monte Sereno	0	0	**0**		16	14
Other Conf	0	0	**0**		16	14
Los Gatos	16	58	**42**	263%	13	13
Santa Clara	264	375	**111**	42%	7	3
Milpitas	125	249	**124**	99%	9	7
Campbell	74	216	**142**	192%	12	8
Gilroy	345	606	**261**	76%	4	2
TOTAL OF CITIES THAT SAW AN INCREASE OF UNSHELTERED			**680**	**WERE ADDED TO THESE THESE CITIES**		

On Mar 9, 2023, at 4 05 PM, Hernandez, Consuelo <[redacted] wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for signing up to receive updates on the proposed Interim Housing Development at Benton and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara We appreciate your continued engagement Below are a few updates posted on the project website

- Tonight! Community Meeting No 3 is taking place this evening at 6 00PM at the Mission City Church located at 1290 Pomeroy Avenue The meeting will be recorded and both the meeting materials and video will be posted on the project website by Monday, March 13th In response to community feedback, the format for this meeting will be primarily a "Question and Answer Session"
- New Information has been posted on the website including neighborhood maps and partial responses to the Q&A from the First Community Meeting
- Community Meeting No 4 will be held via zoom on Wednesday, March 22nd from 6-8PM Join the Zoom Meeting https://sccgov-org zoom us/j/94536865765

A Santa Clara City Council public hearing will be scheduled for April 25th If you would like to be notified, please sign up for email updates athttps://docs google com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvqekJ_RgyyalhYwQ5Gu08L64tBbZAYSbeGQGX2O14Q6f4lg/viewform

Thank you for staying engaged with us

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP
Director, Office of Supportive Housing
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Background checks
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 10:46:05 AM

Adam: I've asked John Stewart Company to do a better job of interpreting than I'm able. Hope to get back to you today.

N

Nick Griffin | RCD | [redacted]

From: Adam Marcus <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Nick Griffin [redacted]>
Cc: Gabriel Borden [redacted]>
Subject: RE: Background checks

So your interpretation is that Housing First allows applicants to be rejected if they have criminal convictions related to tenancy. What convictions can be linked to tenancy? Is there precedent on that?

I don't understand the second reference to Housing readiness. If the laws says housing providers cannot reject someone behaving in way that indicates they are not ready for housing, how does that leave room for background checks?

Adam Marcus (he/him)
City of Santa Clara
Housing & Community Services Division
[redacted]

From: Nick Griffin <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Adam Marcus <[redacted]>
Cc: Gabriel Borden <[redacted]>
Subject: RE: Background checks

I read the nuance in 8255(b)(2): Applicants are not rejected on the basis of poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, criminal convictions unrelated to tenancy, or behaviors that indicate a lack of "housing readiness."

The use of "unrelated to tenancy" and "lack of 'housing readiness'", I think, permit us to screen for extreme criminal background findings.

Nick

Nick Griffin | Director of Asset Management
Resources for Community Development
[redacted]

From: Adam Marcus [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Nick Griffin [redacted]>
Cc: Gabriel Borden <[redacted]>
Subject: Background checks

Hi Nick I wanted to follow up your comments about state law and background checks in Homekey funded projects. Where in the code do you see nuance on this? I looked at the link you shared and didn't see much about screening and background checks. Is there another code section I should look at?

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=WIC&division=8.&title=&part=&chapter=6.5.&article

Thanks,

Adam Marcus (he/him)
Housing & Community Services Division Manager
Community Development Department
[redacted]

City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Benton and Lawrence Updates - New Information Posted to the Project Website
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 7:37:09 AM

Please read this article before you make a decision on building a homeless housing on Benton & Lawrence expressway. They destroy San Francisco city.
Thanks



Whole Foods in Downtown San Francisco Closes Due to Spiraling Crime
yahoo.com

Joseph Dang

On Mar 9, 2023, at 4:05 PM, Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for signing up to receive updates on the proposed Interim Housing Development at Benton and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara. We appreciate your continued engagement. Below are a few updates posted on the project website.

- Tonight! Community Meeting No. 3 is taking place this evening at 6:00PM at the Mission City Church located at 1290 Pomeroy Avenue. The meeting will be recorded and both the meeting materials and video will be posted on the project website by Monday, March 13th. In response to community feedback, the format for this meeting will be primarily a "Question and Answer Session".
- New Information has been posted on the website including neighborhood maps and partial responses to the Q&A from the First Community Meeting.
- Community Meeting No. 4 will be held via zoom on Wednesday, March 22nd from 6-8PM. Join the Zoom Meeting
  https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/94536865765

A Santa Clara City Council public hearing will be scheduled for April 25th. If you would like to be notified, please sign up for email updates at
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvqekJ_RgyyalhYwQ5Gu08L64tBbZAYSbeGQGX2O14Q6f4Ig/viewform

Thank you for staying engaged with us.

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP
Director, Office of Supportive Housing
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing - help to support
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 8:27:01 AM

Adding Councilmember Jain.

Regards,
Jeff Houston
[redacted]

From: sulphurbuckwheat@gmail.com [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2023 2:15 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: 'R. Elysa Gurman' <[redacted]; 'Santa Clara Housing Advocates'
[redacted]; [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] Lawrence Interim Housing - help to support

Hello Consuelo,

I'm a member of Santa Clara Housing Advocates. Hopefully you've heard of us and know that we are trying to help get the Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing approved.

I'd like to learn more about contractual agreements between the city/county and LifeMoves for this project. What agreements do we have with them already? Can you share them with us or point us to where we can find them? Will there be further negotiations/agreements before or after city/county approval?

Regards,
Jeff Houston
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Re: Concerns about the benton&lawrence shelter proposal
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 2:12:26 PM

Thank you for your response. I've watched the recordings of the past meetings, and the majority of residents are saying no to this project, yet it seems the government does not want to hear from us. I've also written to other officials and you are the only one giving a response. If this is due to the volume of the emails you received, that proves that how many people are expressing concerns about this.

It also concerns me that in the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a bad example to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. Please let the local residents speak more, instead of bringing housing advocates, who do not live here and will NOT be impacted by this decision.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**. You are making the local residents angry. I hope that's clear to the government.

Thanks,
Shu

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 5:35 PM Adam Marcus <[redacted]> wrote:

> Thank you Shu. We have received your email and it will be included in the public record. If you haven't already, please visit the project webpage to sign up for email notifications and to view recordings, slides, and responses to over 300 questions.
>
> Benton and Lawrence - Office of Supportive Housing - County of Santa Clara (sccgov.org)
>
> Please note our next meeting will be on zoom:
>
> **Meeting 4 - Wednesday, March 22, 2023 | 6:00-8:00PM**

Join Zoom Meeting
https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/94536865765
One tap mobile
+16699006833,,94536865765#
Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: 945 3686 5765

From: Shu C <[redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:21 PM
To: Shu C [redacted]>
Subject: Concerns about the benton&lawrence shelter proposal

Hi,

I am writing this letter to formally express my concerns and strong opposition to the proposal of a homeless shelter at the intersection of Benton street and Lawrence Expressway.

As a Santa Clara resident, I understand that people experiencing homelessness need our community's help, but I am very concerned with this LOCATION of the proposed shelter, the type of shelter it intends to build, and its "LOW-BARRIER" entry.

This is a location in the residential area with 10+ schools within 2 miles, countless apartments/senior homes/daycares/parks. Young children walk from/to school passing this location every day. Picking such a location to build a "low-barrier" shelter which will allow people with criminal backgrounds, mental issues will place significant risk to this community and increase the crime rates. Plus, there is already another homeless shelter (Bella Vista) 0.5 miles away.

This is also a location not close to public transportation, and the type of shelter it intends to build is more than 200 container-style tiny houses which will make the area very congested, and I don't see a solid plan to ensure the safety of both people inside the shelter and nearby residents.

As residents living < 0.5 miles away, our family has never received any official notice from the government about building this shelter. We are very disappointed about the communication.

I have watched the last two public hearings regarding this matter and was very disappointed about how the city/county is handling this. The county/city officials ignored complaints, refused to answer questions from the community and only tried to advertise how great this location is, without providing any alternatives. When people from this community tried to object, they were told to find a solution. We are not government officials paid by taxpayers, but we are being asked to find a solution simply because we voice our concerns.

This is my first time writing to the government about this kind of issue, but if this cannot be heard, I will be very disappointed about this city/county council and will try my best to fight this with other community members.

I urge city councils and county officials to vote no for this location, and pick a non-residential location for similar projects.

Thanks,

Shu

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]@[redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Fwd: Our neighborhood NEEDS you!
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:23:46 PM

Hello,

No to this Proposal at Benton and Lawrence.

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Lawrence and Benton Interim Shelter Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:38:23 PM
Attachments: image.png
image.png

Oh yes, I would also like Lifemoves to address why the cost for the Palo Alto location increased again and again.

Wire fencing would be used rather than something with more curb appeal, and spaces for families would be consolidated with spaces for single residents, according to an update that City Manager Ed Shikada sent to Palo Alto City Council.

Construction is projected to cost $34.4 million, starting this summer and finishing early 2025, Shikada said.

Council approved the project in September 2021 with a price tag of $17.6 million.

LifeMoves, the nonprofit hired by the city to run the shelter, bumped up its cost estimate two months later to $26 million.

Thank you again,

Jean L

On Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 9:22 PM Jean <[redacted]> wrote:

> Greetings,
>
> Thank you all for the meeting this evening.
>
> I want to express my appreciation for some of the points that your team has clearly heard from the community:
>
> - Thank you for hearing our concerns regarding the density, especially with Bella Vista Inn being only 0.5mi away. Your Option 2 design takes into better consideration the houses that you will be right up against, shoulder-to-shoulder, and the fact this neighborhood will already be absorbing the impacts of Bella Vista Inn.
> - Thank you for hearing that this area is better suited for children, as is obvious by the quantity of schools and parents that reside in this area, and re-designing the site to accommodate 25% that are families.
> - Thank you for explaining that there will be rules and that illegal activity will not be allowed on the premise. (We hope illegal activity does not then just get pushed out off-premise into the parks and neighborhood.)
> - Thank you for hearing our concern about there being only 0.5mi distance to Bella Vista Inn and considering the bike shop site as an alternative.
>
> I feel there are some points that perhaps you were not made aware of:

- This is a very residential neighborhood and is not suitable for an interim shelter where its longevity and continued proper management is unknown. Residents live decades in a neighborhood and will likely outlive your career(s) managing this site. Longevity (continued funding) of this site needs to be addressed, if you ultimately choose to place this in a neighborhood.
- Mr. Consuelo mentioned that there are families at local schools who would benefit from this shelter. We already have the nearby Bella Vista Inn which should solve this issue for them.
- Where do the unhoused go, if they time-out or get removed from this site? We know that unhoused peoples will be brought in from all over the County. Does this neighborhood then become their new encampment?
- Addressing the fact that you are placing 2 shelters in what is known as Koreatown, where minorities, especially Asians, are more frequently targeted than Caucasians due to scapegoating by the past administration as well as both the Democratic and Republican parties. I am not surprised that this community feels a heightened sense of fear. There is no Asian representation in your staff at Lifemoves. I would like to hear how Lifemoves would address this issue, including offering anti-bias and culturally diverse training to your clients, in order to potentially be good neighbors, especially in the Koreatown area.
- I noticed that your presentation was very one-sided. You offered testimonials of your clients, but there were no testimonials of homeowner residents from around your other shelters. I also noticed most of your other shelters are not immediately adjacent to homes and residences, but this one will be. I would like to see this addressed.
- If you are choosing this location, I would like to see Lifemoves acknowledge and address that in the United States of America, homes are the only safety net that citizens have. Homes are the only thing that Americans can sell to fund their retirement, healthcare costs, mortgage to pay for their child's education, to relocate and more. Ours is a country without universal healthcare, abysmal social security, no universal higher education and no safety net. By putting a second site directly into one neighborhood, Lifemoves needs to acknowledge that you are impacting the only safety net a citizen has in this country, which is their home, and it is heavily dependent on density, barrier of entry and management at such a location.
- I would also like to see Lifemoves address the issue of removing 24/7 security at your Palo Alto location:

> To cut costs, the architect has proposed eliminating several features from the shelter. The project would no longer have solar panels and electric vehicle charging, 24/7 on-site security, or sun shades.

https://padailypost.com/2023/03/20/price-of-proposed-homeless-shelter-goes-up-again/

Though I am heartened that Lifemoves has heard some of our concerns, I still feel that this site is not a suitable site due to the issues I list above.

Thank you for your time and I would like a response to the issues I brought up above.

Sincerely,

Jean L

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:
Subject: Re: Lawrence/Benton: Some unanswered questions or open items that could be covered in FAQ or upcoming Zoom Call on 3/22
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 8:17:43 AM

Hi Mr. Adam and Ms. Consuelo,

There were a couple of topics that got debated quite a bit in the last few days. These were:

1. **US Citizenship**
    - Most of the folks who brought it up wanted a verification that only US Citizens get assistance in such interim housing/shelter.
    - Any illegal or undocumented folks are routed to the facilities that can either get them to a path of citizenship or take corrective actions.
2. **Exclusion criteria**
    - So far, the residents have only seen the "inclusion" criteria like proximity to VTA, grocery, hospitals etc. They wanted to know which exclusion factors are currently being considered.
    - If none, it would be a good idea to determine exclusion criterias for different types of locations. For example:
        - Families with kids - exclude locations that are far removed (define in miles/meters) from a public school
        - Seniors (define in years) - exclude locations that are far removed (define in miles/meters) from a hospital
        - Adults with drug affliction - exclude locations that are close (define in miles/meters) to schools and dense (define density) residential population

My last few weeks of digging in this complex problem have allowed me to have an even better appreciation of the complexity associated with tackling homelessness. After the Lawrence/Benton site location matter settles (hopefully amicably), I'd love to partner with you if I can help achieve good outcomes for both the residents as well as the county. Some initial thoughts:

- **Shelter by category:** The inclusion AND exclusion criterias would help us widen our search for land/location fit for different categories
- **Rehabilitation:** The inclusion AND exclusion criterias would help us provide rehabilitation services appropriate for different categories through a focussed approach. We can partner with certain NGOs for this.
- **(Vocational) Training:** Once rehabilitated, and ready for being productive citizens, our clients could be provided training to sharpen their skills or learn new skills that can help them get a job. We can partner with certain NGOs for this.
- **Job Search Assistance:** Once trained, and ready for taking on a job, our clients could be provided assistance to get a job. We can partner with certain NGOs for this.
- **Interim Housing Assistance:** Once on a job, our clients could be provided assistance to get interim housing closer to their work location (example - rent to own program).

Thanks for listening to the feedback from the community and your readiness to make adjustments that are a better fit. I hope you are able to present the facts associated with these questions that help our council members in taking decisions that achieve good outcomes for both the homekey initiative as well as the residents.

Regards,
Ashish

On Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 5:28 PM Adam Marcus [redacted]> wrote:

> Thank you Ashish for highlighting these questions. We are working to address these concerns and intend to share responses at the meeting next week.

Adam Marcus (he/him)

City of Santa Clara
Housing & Community Services Division
[redacted]

From: Ashish Verma [redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 12:35 PM
To: [redacted]; Adam Marcus [redacted]>
Cc: Mayor and Council [redacted]>;
[redacted]
Subject: Lawrence/Benton: Some unanswered questions or open items that could be covered in FAQ or upcoming Zoom Call on 3/22

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

Some of the residents worked together to compile a list of questions that either haven't yet been addressed in FAQ/Slides so far or the response hasn't completely addressed those concerns.
I am bringing these to your attention so that you can help frame answers to these and hopefully get us all to a constructive conclusion that's beneficial for all.

Please let me know if you'd like to discuss any of these prior to the call or need more information.

---

1. **Crime & Property Statistics**

    - **Crime statistics** around such interim housing projects before and after - proving that it is not a safety concern (say a combination of multiple similar sites' data)
    - **Impact on property** prices based on **market** data (not assessed value) - proving that home values won't decrease (Usually #1 has a correlation with #2)
    - **Impact on gentrification** - proving that such a project would not repel future residents (Usually #2 is a leading indicator of #3 - if prices hold or increase it implies desirability of the neighborhood hasn't decreased)

    Response on FAQ (It doesn't match with searches done by the residents or anecdotal evidences)

2. **Screening:** We need more clarity on the screening and prioritization: Some top areas could be
    - Families get preference (most important to preempt families from going down this path)
    - Santa Clara city residents get preference or the project remains exclusive for Santa Clara city residents initially

- Violent crimes, arson, sex offenders are NOT allowed
- Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
- Undocumented immigrants are NOT allowed

Response on FAQ (residents not satisfied by the response):



3. Safety & Security (due to the <u>drug afflicted folks</u> who may not yet have been rehabilitated walking around the neighborhoods)

- How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
- How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
- How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?
- How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?

Related response on FAQ that doesn't seem to answer the questions from above (the link doesn't seem to work as well):







4. **Budget**:

- Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

No response yet

5. Throughput

- What's the overall throughput of clients across different lifemoves centers going by 120/240/360 days (giving a better understanding of where every client landed after getting a service in **<u>such an interim shelter</u>**)

No Response yet on FAQ (Residents would like to see the data that's based on interim shelters **<u>similar</u>** to the ones proposed for this site)

6. Kitchen

- We would need kitchens especially for family based units

Not yet covered on FAQ (residents who would like families to be prioritized would like proper kitchens for families so that if it becomes permanent housing later on, it remains functional):

7. **Smoking Area**

- Would the facility have its own smoking area so that the "clients" do not congregate on the streets for smoking?

Not yet covered on FAQ

8. **Quality of Life:**

- How would the project respect the privacy of residents due to its height?
- What would be the responsibility of LifeMoves or site managers in keeping the surroundings clean (free of litter etc. from its clients)?

Note yet covered on FAQ

Regards,

Ashish

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Lawrence/Benton: Some unanswered questions or open items that could be covered in FAQ or upcoming Zoom Call on 3/22
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:45:50 AM

Hi Mr. Adam and Ms. Consuelo,

I recently heard from several folks that there could be a correlation to the increase in the number of homeless people in Santa Clara county with the release of prisoners during peak Covid times. I haven't been able to look into this myself from a data perspective. Granted,that doesn't change anything regarding the total number of homeless folks that need housing, it actually makes the concern around safety and security even more grave (if that assumption is valid). Would it be possible for you to cover this in the next session on 3/22?

A number of people that I have personally talked with, supported the solution of getting rehabilitation from substance abuse first, before getting such folks in close proximity to kids and residents. Please understand that if it were a fail safe screened process where families with jobs in the area on the verge of being homeless (eviction etc.) could be provided a relief and prevented from going down that cycle, you'd have seen an embracing community. I hope that we find a path in which we all could come together, not just for this project but for overall solution.

Thanks,
Ashish

On Fri, Mar 17, 2023 at 8:17 AM Ashish Verma [redacted] > wrote:

> Hi Mr. Adam and Ms. Consuelo,
>
> There were a couple of topics that got debated quite a bit in the last few days. These were:
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Thanks for listening to the feedback from the community and your readiness to make adjustments that are a better fit. I hope you are able to present the facts associated with these questions that help our council members in taking decisions that achieve good outcomes for both the homekey initiative as well as the residents.

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> Adam Marcus (he/him)
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> City of Santa Clara
> Housing & Community Services Division
> [redacted]
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Ashish Verma <[redacted]>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 12:35 PM
> **To:** [redacted]; Adam Marcus [redacted]
> **Cc:** Mayor and Council <[redacted]>;
> [redacted]
> **Subject:** Lawrence/Benton: Some unanswered questions or open items that could be covered in FAQ or upcoming Zoom Call on 3/22
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>
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Impact on property prices based on **market** data (not assessed value) - proving that home values won't decrease (Usually #1 has a correlation with #2)
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Response on FAQ (It doesn't match with searches done by the residents or anecdotal evidences)



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Response on FAQ (residents not satisfied by the response):



3. **Safety & Security (due to the drug afflicted folks who may not yet have been rehabilitated walking around the neighborhoods)**
   - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
   - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
   - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?
   - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?

Related response on FAQ that doesn't seem to answer the questions from above (the link doesn't seem to work as well):







4. **Budget**:
   - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

No response yet

5. **Throughput**
   - What's the overall throughput of clients across different lifemoves centers going by 120/240/360 days (giving a better understanding of where every client landed after getting a service in **such an interim shelter**)

No Response yet on FAQ (Residents would like to see the data that's based on interim shelters **similar** to the ones proposed for this site)

6. **Kitchen**
   - We would need kitchens especially for family based units

Not yet covered on FAQ (residents who would like families to be prioritized would like proper kitchens for families so that if it becomes permanent housing later on, it remains functional):

7. **Smoking Area**
   - Would the facility have its own smoking area so that the "clients" do not congregate on the streets for smoking?

Not yet covered on FAQ

8. **Quality of Life:**
   - How would the project respect the privacy of residents due to its height?
   - What would be the responsibility of LifeMoves or site managers in keeping the surroundings clean (free of litter etc. from its clients)?

Note yet covered on FAQ

Regards,

Ashish

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Low-barrier Interim Housing project proposal at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 11:43:04 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City:

I strongly oppose the low-barrier interim housing project proposal at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway (3590 Benton Street).

I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

These are some urgent questions that must be satisfactorily answered before any proposal can be considered. I urge you to immediately vote NO on the proposed homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

1) How do Santa Clara County and City Santa Clara ensure the safety of the 11,000 children who are attending the more than 15 schools near the proposed homeless site? The failed experiment at MTV and Milpitas clearly have shown crimes have shot up 300% after the shelter was built at the surrounding neighborhood. What is County's plan on the safety of 11,000 children?

2) What are the successful rate of the homeless people who entered the shelter and later finding permeant housing? According to statistics from the two nearby locations, MTV and Milpitas, the homeless who entered these facilities and later finding permeant home is less than 20%! This is clearly a waste of tax dollars! We need to work on improving the failing existing homeless shelters before building more of them. Repeating a failed model will only result in failure. Are there any plan to improve the outcome of the two existing shelters before we proposing more?

3)The homeless people who don't find permeant housing (less than 20%! successful rate) and who are at the end of their stay, are they just going to be forced out of the shelter? They are going to congregate near the shelter site, thereby impacting the immediate neighborhood. It will only get worse as time goes by! There will be more and more homeless at our neighborhood. This is not solving the homeless problem. It is just dumping the homeless, and issues that come with homeless at our neighborhood. We must stop this from happening. What is the County's plan to mitigate this problem?

4) If as proposed the "interim homeless shelter" will take on the "most challenged homeless", what kind of security force does a 200+ persons homeless shelter comes with? One clearly would expect a higher ration of security force for the "most challenged homeless". An 20 persons security force (an one to ten ratio) may or may not even be able to handle the situations that surely will arise. Have the County done any study on this matter, and will the County provide the security force?

5) If the "interim homeless shelter" is a drug free environment as stated, what kind of medical help is provided for the 200+ persons homeless at the shelter? We can't expect a drug addict to become clean on the

day he/she moved into the shelter. If he/she can not find help at the shelter, he/she will be doing drug near the shelter, in nearby parks, at the school yards, in our neighborhood! With the shelter's plan to admit the "most challenged homeless", there got to be a high number of doctors and nurses on site to meet the challenges. How many doctor and nurse does the County plan to assign to this shelter full time?

6) A homeless shelter is not a jail. Therefore the homeless are free to go in and out of the shelter, as I understand it. And keep in mind these are the "most challenging homeless". 200+ “interim homeless shelter” residents will be doing their “business” and wandering around the immediate neighborhood. With the concentration of 200+ "most challenging homeless", many no doubt with drug additions at this location, drug dealers will be attracted to come; it is well documented a concentration of homeless people will attract drug dealers, as in Tenderloin, San Francisco. How many additional fulltime police officers are assigned to this precinct for this proposed project?

7) What does Santa Clara County plan to do when at the end of their "interim" stay, when a homeless does not find permeant housing? Does the county has any plan to bus them back to where they were found? Or the county just let them out and hope for the best? Where does the

county think the homeless will go? The answer is very obvious. They will just walk into the immediate neighborhood, OUR neighborhood! Does the County has any busing plan to move the homeless to where they want to go?

8) This lot has been used for community activities for many many years, such as pumpkin patch's, Christmas tree sales and more. Where will the local kids go if the County takes away this activities lot? What will the County provide as an alternative?

Clearly the County needs to do much more extensive studies before proposing 2350 Benton Street for an interim housing development.

NO homeless shelter at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway!

Regards,
Ben W.
and family
Long Time Proud Residents of City of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Re: We Oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:17:18 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Ben Wo and family
Residents of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 5:31:59 PM

Dear Ms Hernandez,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:09:08 AM

Hi Sir,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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--
Regards,
Jo Yu Hung

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:08:00 AM

Hi Sir,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

--
Regards,
Amber Hung

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 7:49:10 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

HUIYUAN Tan

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:03:41 PM

Dear Mr. Hernandez,

My name is Bing Tai and I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thanks,
Bing

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:57:59 AM

Dear offciers,

My Name is Bowen Chen and I lives in Santa Clara.

Home address is [redacted]

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Best regards,

Bowen

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 7:26:37 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Cong Liu

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 11:43:36 AM

Dear Ms. Hernandez and Santa Clara City and County Council members,

Let me start by saying when I went to the first community meeting on 3/1/23, I went expecting a cordial and constructive communication session, where there will be back and forth dialogues and the neighbors would get their questions answered right then. This is Santa Clara after all! There was none of that. I was aghast and extremely disappointed with the hostility and exasperation exhibited toward the neighbors on both 3/1 and 3/9 meetings. This is our home, our neighborhood, our everyday lives -- unlike some or most of the council members and a good number of 3/9 "in favor" attendees who at least had the decency to admit they didn't even live in the neighborhood. Most of us are just everyday people, fortunate enough to have a roof but, look, it's not like we have a silver spoon. We're working ourselves to the ground dealing with this economy, trying to make the mortgage, trying to make the bills, and trying to provide for our families and keep them safe. We don't have a Plan B because we cannot afford one. Our home, our neighborhood is just a spot on the map to you and the housing agencies; but this is all we have, and this is our everyday life. Please find an alternative location for the project. The city and county members have alternatives and choices; we the neighbors do not have an alternative.

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to

manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Regards,
Chao-Wen Huang

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:05:52 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:33:39 PM

Hello All,

As a taxpayer of Santa Clara County, I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Fan

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:59:01 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:58:38 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:31:36 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.

THIS IS SLEAZY on so many levels although expected from politicians.

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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--
Gurinder Dhillon

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:16:29 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

--
Hardikkumar Darji

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:06:39 PM

Hi there,

As a resident of Santa Clara, **I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.** Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Lee

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:04:46 PM

Hi County officials,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Resident of Santa Clara,

Hongliang

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 1:25:49 PM

Hi there,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

best,
Huan

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion, Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 1:05:33 PM

Hi,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Sincerely,
Jeff Li

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 11:24:23 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that:

1. A representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz.
2. The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office.
3. Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Sincerely,

Jonathan & Shannon, Santa Clara natives, born & raised.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:14:54 AM

Dear Ms. Hernandez and all,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thank you.

Regards,

Julia

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:04:36 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Junyu Zheng
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:57:27 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:56:12 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Thanks,
-Lorie

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion, Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 6:01:07 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Luyao

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:27:28 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:06:36 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant lists are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

-A Santa Clara resident

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 5:05:20 PM

It shocked and angry me that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy.It is cheating and unacceptable, you lost your credit and made democracy like a joke. Please, STOP IT.
Remember, all you did will be remembered and recorded, it will catch you in the end.

Resident of Santa Clara,
Ping

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 8:07:11 PM

Content:

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thanks,

Concerned Santa Clara resident

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:50:18 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:55:41 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 9:01:31 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Regards,
Rémy Bernard

From: Rui [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:56:54 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted] Liang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:56:18 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:54:40 PM

Hello,

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--
Best Regards,

Rui Liang

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:03:05 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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3) Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thank you for listening.
Sandrine

From: Sergey [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 8:08:20 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: Shan-[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:12:00 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: Sharilyn [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 4:53:50 PM

Hi,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Best,
Sharilyn

From: [redacted] Shroff
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:54:35 AM

Consuelo,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: Shea [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:10:15 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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--
Regards,
Jason Shea

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:59:53 PM

Hello!

Hope this email finds you well.

I'm a resident in the Benton community. I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that 1) a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a co-host alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. 2) The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. 3) Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thank you!

Siyu
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:20:51 PM

As a resident of Benton neighborhood, I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Sizhuo Zhang
[redacted]

From: sky[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom!
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:00:13 AM

To Representatives of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

As a local resident, **I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. THEY DON'T EVEN LIVE HERE AND THEY DON'T CARE!!!!!! As the representative of residents, how can you let such things happen? Do you truly represent us?**

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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By A Long term residents of Benton Neighborhood.

From: [redacted] Win
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:12:43 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:16:17 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Best,
Victoria

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 11:54:58 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Thanks,
Vipul

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:12:50 PM

Mr. Hernandez,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Best Regards,
- Yin Wei

Address: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 8:13:23 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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--

Haoyu Chen

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 8:08:21 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: Xuri [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:28:38 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:57:44 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thanks,
-Xuyan

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:59:25 AM

Hi,

I'm a current resident in the area that will be affected by this project and I'm writing to express my **disappointment and concerns** with what is going on recently. I heard that institutions and individuals that do not live in the community were taken into serious consideration in this matter, which I found unacceptable and unbelievable. For them, it is just one politically right thing to say with no costs to them at all. For us that are currently living in this area, there is a huge price to pay including sacrificing the safe community because of those unstable and dangerous peeple. The political right needs to stop! Do not act kind when you have nothing to lose.

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Regards,
Yi Huang

From: Yiming [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 2:00:47 PM

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment regarding the recent public hearing (March 9th) on the Benton project, specifically the use of invited supporters who were portrayed as local community members. It is unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak and disguised themselves as local neighbors. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion, clearly violating the principles of law and democracy.

During the March 9th meeting, at least five speakers were from housing advocate organizations, who did not reside in the Benton neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen college students to support and speak for the project, none of whom were from the Benton neighborhood. Such behavior is not conducive to fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, and I have zero tolerance for it.

Therefore, for the upcoming March 22nd meeting, I strongly urge the city and county to make changes to ensure fair and transparent community outreach meetings regarding the Benton project. Specifically, I request that the meeting be held in person or that a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood be added to host the virtual meeting with Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. The co-host should have the same meeting permission and control, and the meeting should be hosted from the same physical location, such as Ms. Hernandez's office. Additionally, live comments and participant lists should always be visible to everyone. These measures are essential to ensure that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

In conclusion, the city and county should take this matter seriously and make the necessary changes to ensure fair and transparent community outreach meetings regarding the Benton project. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

From: Yunqi [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 12:18:26 PM

Hi Consuelo,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: Zhe[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:14:03 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: Zheyu [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 7:22:58 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that 1) a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a co-host alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. 2) The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. 3) Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 6:10:35 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Sent from my iPhone

From: So[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strong objection to benton&lawrence shelter project
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 7:59:55 PM

Hi there,
I am a resident with young kids living in 95051. I am writing to express my strong objection to the benton&lawerence shelter project. I understand that the goal of this project is to provide shelter for the homeless, but I believe that the site is not a terrible choice.

The site is in walking distance to several private and public elementary schools.
The shelter will bring uncertainty in the neighborhood and is a huge safety concern to nearby students. I strongly urge you to reconsider the location.

Sincerely,

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strongly Oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location.
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:19:24 PM

Hello,

My name is Rui Liang , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find a non-residential land for the facility like this. I'm counting on you.

--
Best Regards,

Rui Liang

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strongly Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:00:13 PM

Dear officers,

I'm a resident near the proposed Benton shelter. I'm living 0.2 miles from this location and I strongly oppose this plan.
I'm a father of two kids. We were living in Sunnyvale last year. There was a person with mental health issues in our neighborhood and often shouted aloud during the day. My kids were so scared and not willing to play outside of the house. This causes both mental and physical harms to my kids and forced me to move to the current home in Santa Clara. I have learned that a significant portion of the homeless people in this proposed shelter have mental health issues. The would be a serious threaten to the safety and mental health of the kids in our community. As a father, I don't want the same bad thing happen again on my kids. This proposed shelter is not acceptable to me. Please understand the concerns of a father. I'm only fine with building townhouses for the screened low-income families at this location.

Thanks,
Jing Liu

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: strongly oppose building interim housing on Benton!!
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:15:15 PM

Dear Santa Clara Council members,

My name is Vera. I am a santa clara resident. I strongly oppose building interim housing on Benton
consider it's a no barrier, no screen homeless shelter. I attend today's meeting and 80% of community
residents oppose the project. 90% of people opposed from previous meeting and thousands signatures
are collected from people who oppose the project. What else you need to show you listen to the community
and residents?

Data from both San Jose and Milpitas similar project shows the crime rate increase dramatically after project
versus before project. Same storied are repeatedly happen again and again from big cities and small used to
be quite cities. Santa Clara is not special and will not be special in terms of crime rate increase if reckless decision
like this not getting prevented.

Even homeless people are scared of those with drug addicted, with criminal background and rather to stay in tent.
Who you really want to help here? Project like this won't end homeless for sure just like numerous project like that
because that's not the right way. They are creating more severe issue to the community rather than helping people.

Please be responsible to the residents and communities who used to support you, if not, people will learn
from those and will choose the right people who can represent them and do the right thing for community.

Thank you,
Vera

From: [redacted] Wang
To: [redacted]
Subject: strongly oppose the Benton project
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 12:38:55 PM

Hello,

My name is Ray, and I am a concerned resident in the neighborhood. I strongly oppose the Benton project. I strongly believe that this project poses a serious safety risk for the children in our community. Despite what the county claims, data from a similar facility in Milpitas shows that police-involved incidents increased by 300% after the project was executed. We cannot allow this project to turn our community into a hotbed for crime.

From: [redacted] Luo
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strongly oppose to Benton project
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 11:43:34 AM

I am Fei Luo, a parent and resident in the neighborhood close to Benton & Lawrence intersection. I want to express my great concern and opposition about the Benton project. This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a potential safety risk to our children, and it is unacceptable that it would allow criminals, drug addicts, and sex offenders to stay. This was confirmed in all three community hearings that have been held so far. We need to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a magnet for crime.

Thanks for your patience to read my email and be aware of my deep concern about this project!

Best Regards,
Fei

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Support for Interim Housing Proposal
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 5:48:32 PM

Good evening,

I'm writing to share my support of the proposed LifeMoves interim housing program for unhoused people at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara County. Homelessness is a significant problem in Santa Clara, increasing 35% since 2019. You may recall the denial of a similar Project Homekey interim housing proposal on White Oak Lane, a devastating blow to the unhoused population and the City of Santa Clara. The need for additional interim housing is undeniable – the current resources for unhoused people are not robust enough to meet the ever-increasing need. As a resident of Santa Clara, I am in strong support of the proposal because I believe that housing is a basic human right, and by providing people with housing we will also be providing them with a sense of hope for their future.

I urge you to consider the incredible impact this resource could have on the City of Santa Clara, improving safety for the community, increasing resources for underserved community members, and restoring dignity to those who deserve it as much as you and I.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cassidy Kearins

Resident of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Support for Interim Housing Proposal
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:17:27 AM

Good morning,

I'm writing to share my support of the proposed LifeMoves interim housing program for unhoused people at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara County. Homelessness is a significant problem in Santa Clara, increasing 35% since 2019. You may recall the denial of a similar Project Homekey interim housing proposal on White Oak Lane, a devastating blow to the unhoused population and the City of Santa Clara. The need for additional interim housing is undeniable – the current resources for unhoused people are not robust enough to meet the ever-increasing need. As a resident of Santa Clara, I am in strong support of the proposal because I live here with my wife and 3 year old son, and we consistently witness the unhoused population struggling, living in and out of the nearby parks, and not getting the care and support they need to get back to a more normal life.

I urge you to consider the incredible impact this resource could have on the City of Santa Clara, improving safety for the community, increasing resources for underserved community members, and restoring dignity to those who deserve it as much as you and I.

Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully,

Dan Satran
Resident of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Support for Interim Housing Proposal
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:49:38 PM

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to share my support of the proposed LifeMoves interim housing program for unhoused people at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway in the city and county of Santa Clara. Homelessness is a significant problem in Santa Clara, increasing 35% since 2019. You may recall the denial of a similar Project Homekey interim housing proposal on White Oak Lane, a devastating blow to the unhoused population and the City of Santa Clara. The need for additional interim housing is undeniable – the current resources for unhoused people are not robust enough to meet the ever-increasing need.

As a resident of Santa Clara, I am in strong support of the proposal because it is a good first step in doing our part to help our neighbors and minimize homelessness. I moved to Santa Clara almost 10 years ago because I thought it was a community that took care of each other, did the right thing, and was a well-managed community that could make a difference in the lives of its constituents. The city council has already failed our neediest residents. Now is the time to correct that error. If the council votes no again, they will be setting the city up for another lawsuit which will be lost. This will cost the city in so many ways and we will still end up needing to build interim housing.

I urge you to consider the incredible impact this resource could have on the City of Santa Clara, improving safety for the community, increasing resources for underserved community members, and restoring dignity to those who deserve it as much as you and I.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Melinda Berlant
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Subject: Support for Interim Housing Proposal
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:51:35 PM

To those of you who are considering a decision on the proposed Interim Housing Project at Benton and Lawrence Expressway:

I strongly support this proposed Interim Housing Project. As a Santa Clara resident for more than 45 years, I feel that my City Council members with the help of the County Board of Supervisors should implement this project to provide a "hand up and not a handout" to unhoused people in our community.

This interim housing will give homeless people in Santa Clara the space to recover and get their lives together so they can work toward finding a permanent home and gain the skills they need to provide a livelihood for themselves. Shelters that allow the homeless people only to stay at night puts them out on the street during the day, not giving them the time, food, rest, resources, and security to make positive changes in their lives. Currently, there are homeless people in the neighborhood adjacent to the proposed interim housing who can be seen in the local parks or sleeping in their cars. If the interim housing is implemented, these same people can be housed and won't have to be on the streets in a needy condition.

One issue that makes this project difficult for the public to understand and accept is that it is described as a “low barrier,” meaning that some people, who have minor crimes, such as shoplifting or trespassing (for example, sleeping in a covered area in front of the entrance to a store) could be housed in this project. The "low barrier" description of this interim housing project is problematic because people tend to see it as "no barrier." The very aggressive opponents of this proposal assert that it will bring more people who are mentally unstable, drug addicts, criminals, and sex offenders to the nearby streets. As LifeMoves has described, I feel that they will carefully vet prospective residents because if they don't, their reputation as a non-profit will be seriously downgraded. It could put them out of business as a non-profit. I am impressed with LifeMoves' plans to have a cpde of conduct for the residents and to work with the surrounding community to get feedback on the residents. This "low barrier" category gives individuals who are generally excluded a chance for a decent life.

I believe that we who are more fortunate have a duty to support and extend compassion to those who are less fortunate, especially for a solution that will help those in need to become self-sufficient individuals who can contribute to society.

I have been shocked that Santa Clara residents and others who oppose this plan have adopted an ugly, aggressive mode of operation in the public meetings that shows no respect for civil discourse. They must believe that being loud, disruptive, insulting, and even threatening to vote out City Council members is the behavior that will cause the City Council and the Board of Supervisors to turn down the project. I hope that the City and County officials will make an informed decision based on what is best for the City and County and not be bullied by this very aggressive and raucous opposition group. Also, I hope that Santa Clara residents with cooler heads and fair minds will come out and support this project.

Ann Krause

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:
Subject: Support for option 1 over option 2
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:52:08 PM

Hi Adam,

Sorry for the double email, but I just wanted to respond to the two options for the interim housing project you presented this evening and voice my support for option 1 which includes more units of housing. More units in the site means more housing for those who need it and means more effective use of taxpayer money, as you pointed out in the cost estimates.

Thanks,
Asha DuMonthier

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Thoughts on the Benton & Lawrence shelter program
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 8:38:55 PM

Hi Adam,

We have been residents of Santa Clara for over 9 years. We live less than 200 feet from this proposed site.

Few days ago, I met a guy from Milpitas at Santa Clara Community Center, where our kids go to the same ballet class. Somehow we talked about the homeless project. He said the Milpitas homeless is a complete failure. So I asked why. He explained that that site has become a hotspot for drug dealers and criminals.

I can't help thinking that the Benton & Lawrence project could become the next Milpitas project. A disaster we can avoid now!

My kids need to pass this site everyday to go to school. Just imagine from my perspective, and put yourself in my position.

We need a solution that works for everyone. I believe such a solution exists, we need to think creatively and work smartly, maybe with a little bit more patience.

--
Best Regards.
Xufei Wang

You are very welcome to download our FoodSpot apps now available at both Android & iOS store. Your favorite dishes, discovered.

From: Pamela [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Unfair Style of Meeting
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:41:12 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Vote no for Benton project, of any types
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 8:27:56 PM

Dear mayor, councilmembers, county supervisors,

My name is Elisa, living in [redacted] Santa Clara for the past 6 years. I strongly oppose Homeless Shelter of any type to be built on the Benton location.

When we talk about "homeless" that cannot get housed in this area, we are not talking about law-abiding people who experienced a life-changing event and lost their house. Most of those people will have friends and family support, or will eventually move to places that are much affordable. The fact is, most of the homeless here are problematic individuals - drug addicts, people with behavior and mental issues, criminals who have been in and out of jail or who have not been punished due to law enforcement failure. Putting a large group of those bad and evil people at the center of residential homes and schools is irresponsible and reckless. Data from Milpitas, MTV, even our own Bella Vista have shown an increase in crime. There is no excuse for the consistent crime increase in multiple sites, and it will surely happen at Benton if city were to vote "yes" for the project.

Additionally, the neighborhood has raised concerns that the city and county chose this location due to the fact that the local residents are largely from minority populations. This is perceived as a discriminatory act, targeting Asian taxpayers and voters to sacrifice their safety and interests, and may have legal implications.

Voting no on Benton location will be a wise, responsible and intuitive decision.

There are many vacant lots in the business area of Santa Clara that could be used for shelter at similar or cheaper cost. It is inhumane, reckless, and against the spirit of democracy for the city and county to force the community lot to be taken away from local residents when they have many other options available and face 90% opposition from local residents.

Please read all the emails from the residents, watch all the four community meeting recordings, before you vote. I'm counting on you, and you will be held accountable if you vote against the majority.

Elisa

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: We Oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:15:39 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Ben Wo and family
Residents of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 6:02:24 PM

Housing Manager Adam Marcus,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed. Note, the Milpitas facility is even not yet an interim housing but a permanent housing. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The truth is: City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.

Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Haiying Wu
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 6:04:01 PM

Housing Manager Adam Marcus,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

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Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Raymond Chi
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:13:33 PM

Housing Manager Adam Marcus,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed. Note, the Milpitas facility is even not yet an interim housing but a permanent housing. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The truth is: City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.

Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Fay Dustin
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:36:00 AM

My name is Carmen Ho, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.
County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

- Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
- Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves police call from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022)
- The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
- High operation cost as of 4.3M as an estimate for now
- Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
- Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
- County providing false and misleading info
- 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Thank you!

Carmen

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:34:45 AM

My name is Wen Tian , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.
County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

- Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
- Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves police call from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022)
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- Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
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- County providing false and misleading info
- 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Regards,

Wen

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose the proposed Benton development
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:47:25 AM

Hi All,

My name is Yi Wang and I have two kids. As a concerned citizen of Santa Clara, I strongly oppose the proposed Benton development. The location of this shelter is a major safety threat to the community, particularly the children in the area. With over 15 schools and over 10 thousands of students in close proximity, the potential risks are too high to ignore. I urge the City Council to reconsider and find an alternative non-residential location and do not put our children at risk.

Regards,

Yi

From: yang qing
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:53:33 AM

My name is Qing Yang, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton's shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location and vote no as our representative.

The county conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings, the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allows criminals and addicts, and problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police call increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
4. The high operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!
5. The critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery, and jobs
7. The county providing false and misleading info
8. 300+ community questions are unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Thanks
Qing Yang

From: Kelvin Le
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:55:19 AM

My name is Jiayong Le, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton's shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location and vote no as our representative.

The county conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings, the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.

2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police call increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)

3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood

4. The high operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!

5. The critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse

6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery, and jobs

7. The county providing false and misleading info

8. 300+ community questions are unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Thanks

Jiayong Le

From: le tang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:10:53 AM

Hi there,
this is Le Tang. As a concerned citizen of my beloved Santa Clara, **I strongly urge the City Council to reconsider the proposed Benton shelter location.** The potential safety threats to the community, particularly nearby schools and residents, are too great to ignore. With over 15 schools and over 10 thousands of students in close proximity, and research showing that crime rates increase by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, it is imperative that the City Council finds a safer location for the shelter. We cannot afford to take such risks with our community's safety and well-being.

Sincerely,
Le Tang

From: Ed Wang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter!!!
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:11:14 AM

My name is Ed Wang , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. **I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.**

County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
High operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!
Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
County providing false and misleading info
300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

Thank you

Ed

From: Wei Zhou
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:23:22 AM

My name is Wei Zhou, a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.

County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.

2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)

3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood

4. High operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!

5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse

6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs

7. County providing false and misleading info

8. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

--
Regards,
Wei

From: Rachel Zhang
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:49:55 AM

Hi,

My name is Shenqiu Zhang, resident of Santa Clara. **I strongly oppose Benton Shelter**. This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a potential safety risk to our children, and it is unacceptable. With over 15 schools and over 10 thousands of students in close proximity, the potential risks are too high to ignore. I urge the City Council to reconsider and find an alternative non-residential location and do not put our children at risk.

Thanks,
Shenqiu Zhang

From: Na Wang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:00:42 AM

To Whom it may concern,

This is Na Wang, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.

County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
High operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!
Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
County providing false and misleading info
300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Na

From: Xiaolan Yang
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:21:17 AM

Hi,

My name is Xiaolan Yang, a parent and resident in the neighborhood close to Benton & Lawrence intersection. **I want to express my great concern and opposition about the Benton project.** This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a potential safety risk to our children. It would allow criminals, drug addicts, and sex offenders to stay. This was confirmed in all three community hearings that have been held so far. We need to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a magnet for crime.

The county conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate was even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection:

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
4. High operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!
5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
7. County providing false and misleading info
8. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. Please vote No to this radical experiment as soon as possible.

Thanks very much for your help.

Best Regards,

Xiaolan

From: huang lin
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:36:42 AM

Hi,

My name is Lin Huang, a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.
County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.

2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)

3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood

4. High operation cost of $4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from $17M to $34.4M only one year after its approval!

5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse

6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs

7. County providing false and misleading info

8. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Thanks,

Lin

2023-04-06

From: Jiayi Wang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:38:08 AM

---

hi,

My name is Jiayi Wang, a concerned citizen of Santa Clara, I strongly oppose the proposed Benton development.

The location of this shelter is a major safety threat to the community, particularly the children in the area. I have 2 young kids BTW.

With over 15 schools and over 10 thousands of students in close proximity, the potential risks are too high to ignore. I urge the City Council to reconsider and find an alternative non-residential location and do not put our children at risk.

thanks.
Jiayi

From: Zhenzhen (Viola) Gao
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:44:00 AM

My name is Zhenzhen Gao, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.
County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
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Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
County providing false and misleading info
300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

From: Yi Wang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose the proposed Benton Development
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:51:42 AM

Hi officer,

This is Yu Liang. As a resident of the neighborhood near Benton & Lawrence, I am writing to you today to express my deep concern about the Benton project. I strongly oppose this radical idea. This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a serious safety risk for the children and families in our community. The county's claim that there are no safety concerns for children is not supported by evidence from a similar facility in Milpitas where police-involved incidents increased by 300% after the project was executed. We need to work together to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a high-crime area.

Regards,

Yu

From: Qiumao m
To: [redacted]
Subject: Say NO to Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:06:45 AM

My name is Qiumao Ma, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.

County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
4. High operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!
5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
7. County providing false and misleading info
8. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Thanks,
Qiumao

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: S OPT e Be to /Law e ce Ho eess S ete P o ect
Date: Thursday April 6 2023 10:44:24 AM

- ***Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:***
-
-
- ***I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.***
  This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
  The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
  This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a serious safety risk for the children and families in our community. The county's claim that there are no safety concerns for children is not supported by evidence from a similar facility in Milpitas where police-involved incidents increased by 300% after the project was executed. We need to work together to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a high-crime area

  I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

  Regards,

  BP Huang household
  Residents of Santa Cara
-

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: STOP the homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence!!
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:34:11 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.

The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of

the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.

The potential safety threats to the community, particularly nearby schools and residents, are too great to ignore. With over 15 schools and over 10 thousands of students in close proximity, and research showing that crime rates increase by 56% within 300 feet of a shelter, it is imperative that the City Council finds a safer location for the shelter. We cannot afford to take such risks with our community's safety and well-being.

I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

B. Wo and family
Residents of Santa Clara

From: Sophy Zhu
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strongly Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:40:33 AM

My name is Sophy Zhu, a parent and resident in the neighborhood close to Benton & Lawrence intersection.

I want to express my great concern and opposition about the Benton project. This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a potential safety risk to our children, and it is unacceptable that it would allow criminals, drug addicts, and sex offenders to stay. This was confirmed in all three community hearings that have been held so far. We need to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a magnet for crime.

Again, I oppose the Benton Shelter!

From: [redacted]
To: Mayor and Council; Consuelo[redacted]
Subject: We Need to STOP the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway. STOP! STOP! STOP!
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:06:38 AM

I strongly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway.

I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

I agree that we need to address the homeless issues; and homeless people need our compassion and a helping hand. But putting a homeless shelter in the middle of our dense residential communities is NOT the solution.

We can not sacrifice thousands of families and their children by putting homeless shelters right in the middle of our communities. Our family has two beautiful kids attending one of the school near the proposed homeless site. Thousands of children attend the many K to 12 schools in area within 1/2 mile of the proposed homeless shelter. It is a Horrible mistake to even consider this location for homeless shelter. We need to do more extensive studies to come up with a Win Win solution for ALL.

Please vote NO on the homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

BB Huang
Proud Resident of Santa Clara

From: Sonia Singhal
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Saturday, March 25, 2023 8:52:21 AM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?
2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).
3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get

housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:

- How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
- How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
- How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
- How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
   - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
   - **Only US citizens**
   - Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
   - Put Families first
   - Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
   - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
   - Occupants shouldn’t be in violation of Megan’s law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children’s parks.

- Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

We already have Bella Vista Inn right next to this area opened up. Why are we not distributing the homeless shelters across other areas of the county ? We have cities around here which have none.

Alternative plan for Benton - What the City really needs to prevent families from going jobless & homless

1) A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.
2) Also, we should consider the lack of child care centers in our area. Appleseed School closed down because the SCUSD reclaimed their property. It used to cater to ~200 children from infant to preschool age. We should consider this property for building a day care center for the growing working class families in this region.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Sonia Singhal,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Property Manager
To: Kevin Park; Mayor and Council
Subject: opposing the interim housing on the vacant lot between Lawrence and Benton
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2023 11:14:00 PM

Hello Mayor Lisa & Council Member Kevin
I am resident of district 4 of the city of Santa Clara. I would like to express my concern of the proposal of Interim Housing on between Lawrence and Benton for the following reasons :
1) The lot itself has been used for pumpkin patches and the Christmas tree lots which bring a lot of beautiful memories for our residents.
2) The site is too close to the elementary schools on Pomeroy.
3) The site is too close to Earl Carmichael Park. There are a lot of residents nearby. If the Interim housing opens, many homeless people may take over the park and disturb residents nearby.
4) There are a few homeless between El Camino and Kiely. They walk on the streets and sometimes they look confused too and walk mindlessly to the intersection. To avoid any accidents, I drive very carefully each time on El Camino or Kiely when I see any homeless people walking along El Camino or Kiely. Lawrence is a busy expressway and drivers drive at high speed on Lawrence Express. I am worrying that accidents may happen to both drivers and the homeless people if the homeless people walk along Lawrence express.
5) There are better options out there.Vacant office space is a quick option. The cost of building an interim housing from ground up is too costly. There is plenty of office space near Great America. those vacant offices - buildings are already there and modification of the interior will be less costly and the project may be ready sooner to provide service to homeless people.

I am NOT opposing the project but the location needs to be further away from residential. Somewhere by industrial or office area is a better choice.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,
Cindy
Resident of Santa Clara

From:	No Homekey in Birdland Benton
Subject:	NO INTERIM HOUSING AT BENTON & LAWRENCE
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 7:29:31 PM

Affordable housing for a reasonable number of residents: MAYBE.

Permanent, Interim Housing for an unlimited, unscreened, endless supply of homeless individuals from anywhere in the city, county, state, country or abroad: NO!

We do not approve of the proposal to build low barrier interim housing for homeless adults at Lawrence and Benton or in or adjacent to other residential neighborhoods in Santa Clara and Sunnyvale.

The proposed permanent encampment facility at Benton and Lawrence will intentionally and knowingly put our families in danger, increase crime, reduce the enjoyment of our community, and no doubt increase the cost of insurance while driving down our home values. You should have warned every homeowner of your intentions for that property prior to their home purchase, not after banks have approved their mortgages. This proposed action appears to mislead major mortgage lenders as well as several thousand middle class homeowners. Unless you plan to buy out and compensate every homeowner at market rate, we recommend you significantly revise your proposal.

We did not create the homelessness problem and we will not accept the burden for the rest of the county.

Thank you for representing your constituents.

From: Bing Tai
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:03:45 PM

Dear Mr. Hernandez,

My name is Bing Tai and I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thanks,
Bing

From: Fan Chen
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:33:42 PM

Hello All,

As a taxpayer of Santa Clara County, I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Fan

From: Yiming Xu
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 2:00:51 PM

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment regarding the recent public hearing (March 9th) on the Benton project, specifically the use of invited supporters who were portrayed as local community members. It is unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak and disguised themselves as local neighbors. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion, clearly violating the principles of law and democracy.

During the March 9th meeting, at least five speakers were from housing advocate organizations, who did not reside in the Benton neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen college students to support and speak for the project, none of whom were from the Benton neighborhood. Such behavior is not conducive to fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, and I have zero tolerance for it.

Therefore, for the upcoming March 22nd meeting, I strongly urge the city and county to make changes to ensure fair and transparent community outreach meetings regarding the Benton project. Specifically, I request that the meeting be held in person or that a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood be added to host the virtual meeting with Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. The co-host should have the same meeting permission and control, and the meeting should be hosted from the same physical location, such as Ms. Hernandez's office. Additionally, live comments and participant lists should always be visible to everyone. These measures are essential to ensure that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

In conclusion, the city and county should take this matter seriously and make the necessary changes to ensure fair and transparent community outreach meetings regarding the Benton project. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

From:	Zheyu Wu
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 7:23:02 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that 1) a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a co-host alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. 2) The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. 3) Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From:	VW H
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:12:54 PM

Mr. Hernandez,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Best Regards,
- Yin Wei

Address: [redacted]

From:	Sizhuo Zhang
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:20:55 PM

As a resident of Benton neighborhood, I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Sizhuo Zhang
[redacted]

From:	Victoria Gu
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:16:21 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Best,
Victoria

From: Haiying Wu
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 6:02:29 PM

General office Santa Clara,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed. Note, the Milpitas facility is even not yet an interim housing but a permanent housing. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The truth is: City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.

Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Haiying Wu
[redacted]

From: Raymond Chi
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 6:04:06 PM

General office Santa Clara,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed. Note, the Milpitas facility is even not yet an interim housing but a permanent housing. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The truth is: City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.

Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Raymond Chi
[redacted]

From: Connie Leung
To: [redacted]; Adam Marcus
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [Please Read] Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 11:21:18 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California. I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a "low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.

1. Safety & Security (of residents): The residents, including **me and my family (daughters 7 and 1), feel unsafe** and are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on the KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.

- What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
- If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?
- **There are 15 schools within a 1.5 mile radius to this proposed location - has this been considered at all?** My consult with a registered Social Worker also expressed concerns on this proposal.

2. Safety & Security (of clients): The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially
get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:

- **Why are we placing these clients across from a liquor store and 7-11 when we know a good percentage of them suffer from past alcohol abuse?**
- How do we protect the clients from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
- Why does this location NOT offer any nearby public transport or commercial working opportunities?

3. Budget: Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)? How will the city fund all the increased incidents anticipated from this project and where will the clients go after their 6 months

maximum stay?

4. Screening: The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-

- Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
- Put Families first
- Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
- People who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT
- allowed
- Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks
- Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here. **I'd request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society.** With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Connie Chou, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Denisse Locascio
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Subject: Project on Benton and Lawrence
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 2:58:16 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Regards
Denisse Tostado
[redacted]

From:	C L
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Friday, March 17, 2023 7:26:39 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Cong Liu

From:	Anna Tan
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Saturday, March 18, 2023 7:49:07 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

HUIYUAN Tan

From: Vipul Shah
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 11:55:00 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thanks,
Vipul

From: Xinrong Yang
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 8:08:23 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: Vidushi Gupta
To: Consuelo [redacted] Adam Marcus
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 3:54:30 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute
towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.
I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far
as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a "low entry barrier interim housing for singles and
couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.
1. Safety & Security (of residents): The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
○ What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
○ If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. Property Value: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. Safety & Security (of clients): The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of
any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients.

Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
○ How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection
which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
○ How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?

○ How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit
the parks/streets?
○ How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. Budget:
○ Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. Screening: The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even
if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the
following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
○ Only US citizens
○ Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
○ Put Families first
○ Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
○ Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
○ Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
○ Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)
Alternative plan for Benton
A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers,
healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work
hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.
I'd request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area and providing amenities and
support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society.
With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through
rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once
an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to
assist further.
I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Vidushi Gupta, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Fay Dustin
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:13:33 PM

General office Santa Clara,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed. Note, the Milpitas facility is even not yet an interim housing but a permanent housing. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The truth is: City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.

Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Fay Dustin
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: Shan-Ting Hsu
To: Consuelo[redacted]
Subject: Put an end to astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion. Either make the 3/22 meeting in-person or include a co-host from the neighborhood for the Zoom meeting
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:21:05 PM

I am deeply disappointed that individuals with vested interests in the Benton project were invited to speak at the March 9th public hearing disguised as local community members. While everyone is entitled to their own opinions, it is unacceptable to present the views of project advocates as those of genuine community members. At the meeting, several speakers were from housing advocate organizations who do not reside in the Benton neighborhood. Additionally, Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU, brought a group of college students to speak in favor of the project, none of whom were from the neighborhood. This tactic creates a false impression of public support for the project and undermines the democratic process. I have no tolerance for such behavior.

For the upcoming March 22nd meeting, I urge the city and county to either hold an in-person meeting or add a co-host from the Benton neighborhood to jointly host the virtual meeting with Ms. Consuelo Hernandez. Going forward, I request that the city and county refrain from presenting the views of incentivized participants as the opinions of the local residents in all future meetings.

To promote a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, I request the following: 1) a representative from the Benton neighborhood should join the virtual meeting as a co-host with Ms. Consuelo Hernandez, 2) the co-host should have equal meeting permissions and control and host the meeting from the same physical location as Ms. Hernandez's office, and 3) ensure that live comments and participant lists are always visible to all attendees. These steps are crucial to ensuring that community outreach meetings remain transparent and unbiased.

From:	Lumeow Hsox
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion, Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 6:01:07 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Luyao

[redacted]

From: Sandrine Bernard
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:03:05 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings.**

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that
1) a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz.
2) The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office.
3) Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thank you for listening.
Sandrine

From:	Shan-Ting Hsu
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:12:07 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: Su Latt Win
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:12:39 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From:	Will C
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 8:13:22 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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--

Haoyu Chen

From: Rémy BERNARD
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 9:01:32 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Regards,
Rémy Bernard

From:	Leung Andy
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:57:26 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From:	Guilan Gao
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:58:38 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From:	Guilan Gao
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:59:01 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From:	Junyu Zheng
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:04:37 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Junyu Zheng
[redacted]

From: Hongliang Fei
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:04:46 PM

Hi County officials,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Resident of Santa Clara,

Hongliang

From: Hongliang Fei
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:06:39 PM

Hi there,

As a resident of Santa Clara, **I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.** Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Lee

From:	M Feng
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:27:25 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From:	vidya g
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:00:12 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

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From:	Rui Liang
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:54:41 PM

Hello,

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--
Best Regards,

Rui Liang

From:	Ray Leon
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:55:37 PM

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From:	Rui Liang
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:56:20 PM

Hello,

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From:	Rui de Leon
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:56:54 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: Wu Wen
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Subject: Benton project - Request for future public hearings
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:36:08 AM

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns on the Benton Project and the recent public hearings.

I am extremely disappointed that some supporters of the Benton project who do not live in the neighborhood were portrayed as members of the local community then asked to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Sincerely,
Wu Wen

From:	Chou Ethan
To:	onsuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Entire household[redacted]) strongly against Homekey project "Benton Street at Lawrence"
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:48:52 AM

To Consuelo and Santa Clara county:

Please stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom.

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the HomeKey project "Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Shelter" , portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for it and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance for such behavior.**

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Sincere,

Household and house owner of [redacted]

Ethan Chou
[redacted]

From: I S Gill
To: [redacted]
Subject: I oppose building another homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton location .....
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:45:08 AM

Hi TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,
I oppose building another homeless shelter at **Lawrence & Benton location** because Homeless Shelter for residents can pose potential risks to the high-density residential areas and to users of parks,
kids in many daycares, schools and children's playgrounds in this area. AND I request that I vote NO on this project:
Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Service Enriched Shelter

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Thanks & Regards,
Bay Star Limo
[redacted]

*** If cancellation is made less than 24 hours we will charge 100% of original fees.**

Confidentiality Notice: *The information in this e-mail and any attachments thereto is intended for the named recipient(s) only. This e-mail, including any attachments, may contain information that is privileged and confidential and subject to legal restrictions and penalties regarding its unauthorized disclosure or other use. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action or inaction in reliance on the contents of this e-mail and any of its attachments is* ***STRICTLY PROHIBITED****. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender via return e-mail; delete this e-mail and all attachments from your e-mail system and your computer system and network; and destroy any paper copies you may have in your possession. Thank you for your cooperation.*

From: Agou Cheng
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton at Lawrence Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:44:51 PM

Dear Mayor Gilmor and Council Members,

My name is Yu-Chuan Chou and I am a resident of Santa Clara living on Benton St. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Benton shelter. I believe this is an inappropriate location for such a facility and it poses a safety risk for our children in the community. I urge you to reconsider this plan and vote against it as our elected representatives. The city and county should look for a non-residential land that is more suitable for this purpose.

I appreciate your attention and service to our community. Please take my concerns into account.

Sincerely,

Yu Chuan

From: Sheng Liu
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton shelter
Date: Friday, March 31, 2023 10:28:51 AM

Hello, my name is Sheng Liu, a parent and resident in the neighborhood close to Benton & Lawrence intersection. **I want to express my great concern and opposition about the Benton project.** This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a potential safety risk to our children, and it is unacceptable that it would allow criminals, drug addicts, and sex offenders to stay. This was confirmed in all three community hearings that have been held so far. We need to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a magnet for crime.
Sheng Liu

--

Sheng Liu
PhD
Senior research scientist
[redacted]

From: Bay One Limo Shaila
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Our neighborhood NEEDS you! Call to join the 3/22 zoom meeting
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:46:43 AM

Hi to whom it may concern,
I oppose building another homeless shelter at **Lawrence & Benton location** because Homeless Shelter for residents can pose potential risks to the high-density residential areas and to users of parks,
kids in many daycares, schools and children's playgrounds in this area. AND I request that I vote NO on this project:
Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Service Enriched Shelter

Thank You
BAY ONE LIMO
[redacted]

We Love Referrals!

*** If cancellation is made less than 24 hours we will charge 100% of original fees.**

On Thu, Mar 16, 2023 at 10:57 AM NoHomekey SantaClaraSunnyvale [redacted] > wrote:

Follow our Twitter: https://twitter.com/safesantaclara
Subscribe to Youtube: https://youtube.com/@safescc
Our website: https://safescc.org

Dear Community member:

In the last in-person public hearing at Mission city church, many of our neighbors joined the meeting and expressed their opposition.

As you probably know, in the 3/1 meeting, only a few supporters showed up to support the Benton proposal. However, on 3/9, more supporters came. At least 5 of them admitted they work for a homeless housing advocate organization and do not live in the neighborhood. About a dozen supporters were college students from San Jose State University. They came with

Professor Ken Yeager, a former Santa Clara County Supervisor. The turnout created the illusion that more neighbors started supporting this HomeKey project. It showcases the government's campaign to skew the actual level of opposition from the people who actually work/live in the neighborhood. As a preventative measure, we plan to ask the city/county to add a co-host nominated by the neighborhood for the next virtual public hearing.

It is really a critical period for us and our community. Again, we need our voices heard! We need your emails, and your phone calls AS MANY AS POSSIBLE to say NO to officials. Let them know we care about our community and will try very hard to keep it safe. We also need more WET SIGNATURES!

Before the meeting on March 22nd, please spend 5 mins emailing and calling officials. You can do it multiple times with the same words!!

Please call

1. Consuelo: [redacted] (Office line)

2. Any or all of the numbers below:

image.png

Email:

Subject: **Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom**
To: [redacted]

BCC: [redacted]

Content:
I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: Mayor and Council; Adam Marcus
Subject: Re: We Oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:17:20 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Ben Wo and family
Residents of Santa Clara

From:	hardik darji
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:16:27 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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--
Hardikkumar Darji

From: Gurinder Dhillon
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:31:36 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.

THIS IS SLEAZY on so many levels although expected from politicians.

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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--
Gurinder Dhillon

From:	Yunqi Sun
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 12:18:28 PM

Hi Consuelo,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From:	Jeff Leon
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion, Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 1:05:31 PM

Hi,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Sincerely,
Jeff Li

From:	Ray
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:50:17 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: Ling Huang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:25:47 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: Xuri Feng
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:28:39 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: Safe Santa Clara
To: [redacted]
Subject: Benton project - Second Open Letter
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 12:24:34 PM

County Supervisors, Mayor Gilmore, Santa Clara Councilmembers:

This is the second open letter to Santa Clara County and City. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Benton development. We believe this development is a mistake that the city of Santa Clara should never make. We urge the City Council to halt the consideration of this site immediately.

We want to strongly express our indignation and concern regarding the practice of astroturfing before and in the third hearing held on March 9th. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community. This action to market false impressions of public support for the project sets up a plot to manipulate public opinion, a clear violation of the principles of law and democracy. **We have zero-tolerance towards such behavior. We strongly urge the city and county to not only stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents, but also to refrain from engaging in astroturfing in the future.** This is essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Additionally, we are extremely dismayed by the City and County's persistent dissemination of fake and false information, as well as the disregard for the community's concerns about safety. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word "shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. Also, when you presented the data from KQED of five shelters in San Jose with declined crime, you intentionally presented the total number but not the number for each site. Because if you look at the number of police calls for each site respectively, 3 out of 5 sites witnessed an increase in almost all types of police calls. Worse, the earlier the shelter opened, the larger increase in crime it showed. Also the KQED data missed a lot of types of crime, such as drug-related, suspicious activity, burglary/theft, mental health, disorders, violation and violence. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The fact is that the City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. **We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.**

Furthermore, like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but **the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers -** the same taxpayers that voted you into office.

In summary, the public's opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Addressing homelessness is a humanitarian and necessary effort. But all these years what we have always seen is your hand-waving and virtue-signaling, as embodied in your repeated, irresponsible choice of location for different homeless shelters, in your misplaced emphasis on housing alone without much regard for other priorities helping the homeless. In this matter, the public's patience and trust in you is, frankly, very thin. We urge you to heed the loud and clear message, to act on your good conscience, and to genuinely involve the community rather than just treating us as mere formality. If you put your political career ahead of the interest of the Santa Clara residents whom you presumably represent, then fight we will. We are determined to take all means necessary, including but not limited to legal action, to safeguard the place we call home, for ourselves but perhaps more importantly, for our children.

Regards,
Safe Santa Clara County



From: Cecil Mossotti
To: Mayor and Council; Consuelo Hernandez; Adam Marcus
Subject: Benton-Lawrence Homeless Project
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:44:18 PM

March 20, 2023

All,

This is a follow-up to my March 8 email and to my comments at the March 9 meeting as I will be unable to participate in the March 22 virtual meeting.

Again, I am a retiree who owns and lives in the Monaco Condominiums located directly across the street from the proposed interim housing. Already we have homeless with serious mental and/or drug issues around our complex as well as at the 7/11 store and gas station that are next to us. This includes those living in their cars parked on the curbs by us who refuse to stay in the motels provided to them.

Having interim housing across the street for the homeless described above only increases the numbers since they will continue to 'hang out' at the places I mentioned.

I seriously doubt those of you making the decision would want to have such housing by your home. Therefore, why can't the funding be used for the homeless who have jobs but must live in motels, tents, shelters. Or perhaps a pre-school facility for low income families or those who are homeless with children.

Yes, those unfortunate to be homeless need help and a clean warm place to reside. However, the individuals who you plan to house at the Benton-Lawrence interim facility will require years of assistance and care, not months, due to their drug addiction or mental illness. Please consider an area away from neighborhoods for such a facility. Consider instead a facility for those I mentioned above or something similar.

Ms Cecil May Mossotti
[redacted]

From: Shaun Shroff
To: Consuelo [redacted]; Adam Marcus
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 9:50:56 AM

Dear Ms. Consuelo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
    - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
    - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
    - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations

once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-

- **Only US citizens**
- Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
- Put Families first
- Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
- Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
- Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
- Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Shaun Shroff, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Monica Bansal
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:03:21 AM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
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    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
    - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
    - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

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    - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
    - **Only US citizens**
    - Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
    - Put Families first
    - Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
    - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
    - Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
    - Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Monica Bansal, J.D. Parent and Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Pushpanjali S
To: Consuelo [redacted]; Adam Marcus
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:06:49 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still think that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are **not at all satisfied by the data presented** in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seemed to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. **The impact assessment should be based on market data**. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
    - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
    - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
    - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
    - **Only US citizens**
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    - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
    - Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
    - Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Pushpanjali S,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Benny Fong
To: Mayor and Council; Adam Marcus
Subject: DO NOT build any homeless shelter at Lawrence and Benton
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 9:07:58 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

We strongly OPPOSE to any homeless shelter at Lawrence and Benton.

I am all for helping the homeless, and solving the homeless issue. But the County needs to do more studying and come up with a Win Win proposal. Just because there is an empty lot in our neighborhood Does Not mean the county's next project should be built here. You don't need a PhD to know this location is absolutely WRONG for any homeless shelter.

We have been living in this area for the past 15 years. Our two kids attend the elementary school that is half a mile from the proposed site. I'm FURIOUS that the county is proposing this location for homeless shelter, right in the middle of our residential community, where hundreds of children live and attend the many schools in the neighborhood, all within an one mile radius.

What this proposal to build a homeless shelter in our residential community is basically to turn our beautiful neighborhood into a shit hole. We CAN NOT let this happen.

Please don't sacrifice our children.

NO homeless shelter at Lawrence and Benton.

Regards,

Ben W. and family
Resident of Santa Clara

From: Natalia Bondarenko
To: Adam Marcus
Subject: STRONGLY OPPOSE the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:57:43 AM

I strongly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway. It is close to my school and park and I am concirned about safety of my children.

From: Jean
To: [redacted]
Subject: Lawrence and Benton Interim Shelter Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:22:47 PM
Attachments: image.png

Greetings,

Thank you all for the meeting this evening.

I want to express my appreciation for some of the points that your team has clearly heard from the community:

- Thank you for hearing our concerns regarding the density, especially with Bella Vista Inn being only 0.5mi away. Your Option 2 design takes into better consideration the houses that you will be right up against, shoulder-to-shoulder, and the fact this neighborhood will already be absorbing the impacts of Bella Vista Inn.
- Thank you for hearing that this area is better suited for children, as is obvious by the quantity of schools and parents that reside in this area, and re-designing the site to accommodate 25% that are families.
- Thank you for explaining that there will be rules and that illegal activity will not be allowed on the premise. (We hope illegal activity does not then just get pushed out off-premise into the parks and neighborhood.)
- Thank you for hearing our concern about there being only 0.5mi distance to Bella Vista Inn and considering the bike shop site as an alternative.

I feel there are some points that perhaps you were not made aware of:

- This is a very residential neighborhood and is not suitable for an interim shelter where its longevity and continued proper management is unknown. Residents live decades in a neighborhood and will likely outlive your career(s) managing this site. Longevity (continued funding) of this site needs to be addressed, if you ultimately choose to place this in a neighborhood.
- Mr. Consuelo mentioned that there are families at local schools who would benefit from this shelter. We already have the nearby Bella Vista Inn which should solve this issue for them.
- Where do the unhoused go, if they time-out or get removed from this site? We know that unhoused peoples will be brought in from all over the County. Does this neighborhood then become their new encampment?
- Addressing the fact that you are placing 2 shelters in what is known as Koreatown, where minorities, especially Asians, are more frequently targeted than Caucasians due to scapegoating by the past administration as well as both the Democratic and Republican parties. I am not surprised that this community feels a heightened sense of fear. There is no Asian representation in your staff at Lifemoves. I would like to hear how Lifemoves would address this issue, including offering anti-bias and culturally diverse training to your clients, in order to potentially be good neighbors, especially in the Koreatown area.
- I noticed that your presentation was very one-sided. You offered testimonials of your clients, but there were no testimonials of homeowner residents from around your other shelters. I also noticed most of your other shelters are not immediately adjacent to homes and residences, but this one will be. I would like to see this addressed.
- If you are choosing this location, I would like to see Lifemoves acknowledge and address

that in the United States of America, homes are the only safety net that citizens have. Homes are the only thing that Americans can sell to fund their retirement, healthcare costs, mortgage to pay for their child's education, to relocate and more. Ours is a country without universal healthcare, abysmal social security, no universal higher education and no safety net. By putting a second site directly into one neighborhood, Lifemoves needs to acknowledge that you are impacting the only safety net a citizen has in this country, which is their home, and it is heavily dependent on density, barrier of entry and management at such a location.
- I would also like to see Lifemoves address the issue of removing 24/7 security at your Palo Alto location:

image.png



https://padailypost.com/2023/03/20/price-of-proposed-homeless-shelter-goes-up-again/

Though I am heartened that Lifemoves has heard some of our concerns, I still feel that this site is not a suitable site due to the issues I list above.

Thank you for your time and I would like a response to the issues I brought up above.

Sincerely,

Jean L

From: Tina Liu
To: Consuelo [redacted]; Adam Marcus
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 1:55:19 PM

Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value**:The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?

- How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
- How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
    - Santa Clara city is already in a **deficit**. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening**: The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
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Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Tina Liu
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:03:52 PM

My name is Chris Zhang , a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative.
City and county need to find non-residential land for the facility like this.
I'm counting on you.

From: Huasha Zhao
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:05:27 PM

My name is Jimmy Matson, a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find non-residential land for the facility like this.
I'm counting on you.

From:	Yuanyuan Zhang
To:	Mayor and Council
Cc:	[redacted]
Subject:	Oppose Benton shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 10:19:58 PM

Hello,

My name is Yuanyuan Zhang, a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly **oppose** Benton shelter. I have a strong belief that this project presents a significant safety hazard for the children in our community. Despite the county's assertions, data from a comparable facility in Milpitas reveals that police-involved incidents rose by 300% after the project's implementation. It is not acceptable for this project to transform our community into a breeding ground for crime.

Please vote **NO**. I'm counting on you.

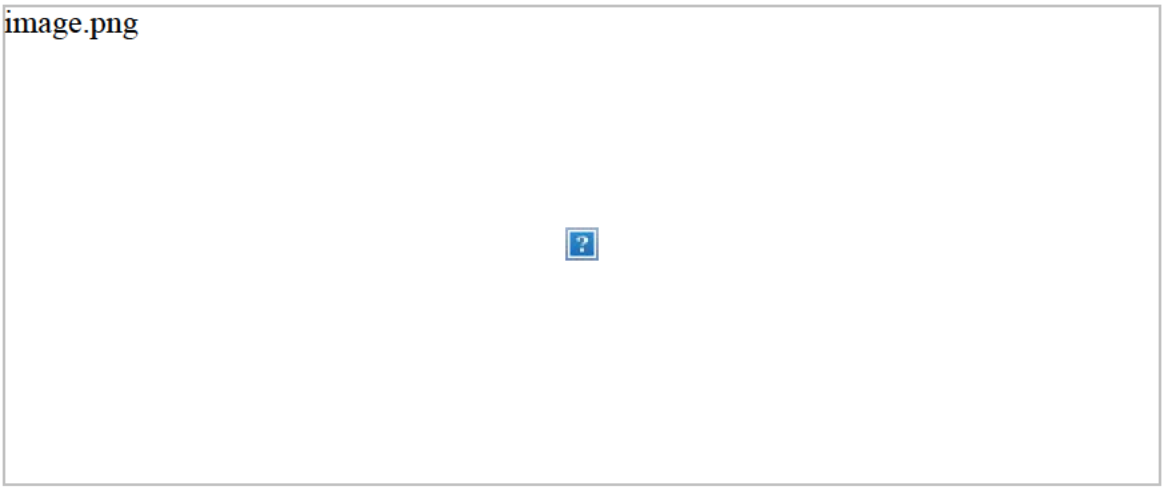
Thanks!

Sincerely,
Yuanyuan

From: Jean
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Lawrence and Benton Interim Shelter Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:38:22 PM
Attachments: image.png
image.png

Oh yes, I would also like Lifemoves to address why the cost for the Palo Alto location increased again and again.

image.png



Thank you again,

Jean L

On Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 9:22 PM Jean [redacted] wrote:

> Greetings,
>
> Thank you all for the meeting this evening.
>
> I want to express my appreciation for some of the points that your team has clearly heard from the community:
>
> - Thank you for hearing our concerns regarding the density, especially with Bella Vista Inn being only 0.5mi away. Your Option 2 design takes into better consideration the houses that you will be right up against, shoulder-to-shoulder, and the fact this neighborhood will already be absorbing the impacts of Bella Vista Inn.
> - Thank you for hearing that this area is better suited for children, as is obvious by the quantity of schools and parents that reside in this area, and re-designing the site to accommodate 25% that are families.
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> - Thank you for hearing our concern about there being only 0.5mi distance to Bella Vista Inn and considering the bike shop site as an alternative.
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> I feel there are some points that perhaps you were not made aware of:

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- Where do the unhoused go, if they time-out or get removed from this site? We know that unhoused peoples will be brought in from all over the County. Does this neighborhood then become their new encampment?
- Addressing the fact that you are placing 2 shelters in what is known as Koreatown, where minorities, especially Asians, are more frequently targeted than Caucasians due to scapegoating by the past administration as well as both the Democratic and Republican parties. I am not surprised that this community feels a heightened sense of fear. There is no Asian representation in your staff at Lifemoves. I would like to hear how Lifemoves would address this issue, including offering anti-bias and culturally diverse training to your clients, in order to potentially be good neighbors, especially in the Koreatown area.
- I noticed that your presentation was very one-sided. You offered testimonials of your clients, but there were no testimonials of homeowner residents from around your other shelters. I also noticed most of your other shelters are not immediately adjacent to homes and residences, but this one will be. I would like to see this addressed.
- If you are choosing this location, I would like to see Lifemoves acknowledge and address that in the United States of America, homes are the only safety net that citizens have. Homes are the only thing that Americans can sell to fund their retirement, healthcare costs, mortgage to pay for their child's education, to relocate and more. Ours is a country without universal healthcare, abysmal social security, no universal higher education and no safety net. By putting a second site directly into one neighborhood, Lifemoves needs to acknowledge that you are impacting the only safety net a citizen has in this country, which is their home, and it is heavily dependent on density, barrier of entry and management at such a location.
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image.png



https://padailypost.com/2023/03/20/price-of-proposed-homeless-shelter-goes-up-again/

Though I am heartened that Lifemoves has heard some of our concerns, I still feel that this site is not a suitable site due to the issues I list above.

Thank you for your time and I would like a response to the issues I brought up above.

Sincerely,

Jean L

From: Ashish Verma
To: Adam Marcus; Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: Mayor and Council; [redacted]
Subject: Re: Lawrence/Benton: Some unanswered questions or open items that could be covered in FAQ or upcoming Zoom Call on 3/22
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:45:56 AM

Hi Mr. Adam and Ms. Consuelo,

I recently heard from several folks that there could be a correlation to the increase in the number of homeless people in Santa Clara county with the release of prisoners during peak Covid times. I haven't been able to look into this myself from a data perspective. Granted,that doesn't change anything regarding the total number of homeless folks that need housing, it actually makes the concern around safety and security even more grave (if that assumption is valid). Would it be possible for you to cover this in the next session on 3/22?

A number of people that I have personally talked with, supported the solution of getting rehabilitation from substance abuse first, before getting such folks in close proximity to kids and residents. Please understand that if it were a fail safe screened process where families with jobs in the area on the verge of being homeless (eviction etc.) could be provided a relief and prevented from going down that cycle, you'd have seen an embracing community. I hope that we find a path in which we all could come together, not just for this project but for overall solution.

Thanks,
Ashish

On Fri, Mar 17, 2023 at 8:17 AM Ashish Verma <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Mr. Adam and Ms. Consuelo,
>
> There were a couple of topics that got debated quite a bit in the last few days. These were:
>
> 1. **US Citizenship**
>   - Most of the folks who brought it up wanted a verification that only US Citizens get assistance in such interim housing/shelter.
>   - Any illegal or undocumented folks are routed to the facilities that can either get them to a path of citizenship or take corrective actions.
> 2. **Exclusion criteria**
>   - So far, the residents have only seen the "inclusion" criteria like proximity to VTA, grocery, hospitals etc. They wanted to know which exclusion factors are currently being considered.
>   - If none, it would be a good idea to determine exclusion criterias for different types of locations. For example:
>   - Families with kids - exclude locations that are far removed (define in miles/meters) from a public school
>   - Seniors (define in years) - exclude locations that are far removed (define in miles/meters) from a hospital
>   - Adults with drug affliction - exclude locations that are close (define in miles/meters) to schools and dense (define density) residential population
>
> My last few weeks of digging in this complex problem have allowed me to have an even better appreciation of the complexity associated with tackling homelessness. After the Lawrence/Benton site location matter settles (hopefully amicably), I'd love to partner with you if I can help achieve good outcomes for both the residents as well as the county. Some initial thoughts:
>
> - **Shelter by category:** The inclusion AND exclusion criterias would help us widen our search for land/location fit for different categories
> - **Rehabilitation:** The inclusion AND exclusion criterias would help us provide rehabilitation services appropriate for different categories through a focussed approach. We can partner with certain NGOs for this.
> - **(Vocational) Training:** Once rehabilitated, and ready for being productive citizens, our clients

could be provided training to sharpen their skills or learn new skills that can help them get a job. We can partner with certain NGOs for this.
- **Job Search Assistance:** Once trained, and ready for taking on a job, our clients could be provided assistance to get a job. We can partner with certain NGOs for this.
- **Interim Housing Assistance:** Once on a job, our clients could be provided assistance to get interim housing closer to their work location (example - rent to own program).

Thanks for listening to the feedback from the community and your readiness to make adjustments that are a better fit. I hope you are able to present the facts associated with these questions that help our council members in taking decisions that achieve good outcomes for both the homekey initiative as well as the residents.

Regards,
Ashish

On Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 5:28 PM Adam Marcus <[redacted]> wrote:

> Thank you Ashish for highlighting these questions. We are working to address these concerns and intend to share responses at the meeting next week.
>
> Adam Marcus (he/him)
>
> City of Santa Clara
> Housing & Community Services Division
> [redacted]
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Ashish Verma [redacted]>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 12:35 PM
> **To:** [redacted] Adam Marcus [redacted]>
> **Cc:** Mayor and Council [redacted]>;
> [redacted]
> **Subject:** Lawrence/Benton: Some unanswered questions or open items that could be covered in FAQ or upcoming Zoom Call on 3/22
>
> Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,
>
> Some of the residents worked together to compile a list of questions that either haven't yet been addressed in FAQ/Slides so far or the response hasn't completely addressed those concerns.
> I am bringing these to your attention so that you can help frame answers to these and hopefully get us all to a constructive conclusion that's beneficial for all.
>
> Please let me know if you'd like to discuss any of these prior to the call or need more information.
>
> ---
>
> 1. **Crime & Property Statistics**
>
>   - **Crime statistics** around such interim housing projects before and after - proving that it is not a safety concern (say a combination of multiple similar sites' data)

Impact on property prices based on **market** data (not assessed value) - proving that home values won't decrease (Usually #1 has a correlation with #2)
- **Impact on gentrification** - proving that such a project would not repel future residents (Usually #2 is a leading indicator of #3 - if prices hold or increase it implies desirability of the neighborhood hasn't decreased)

Response on FAQ (It doesn't match with searches done by the residents or anecdotal evidences)



2. **Screening:** We need more clarity on the screening and prioritization: Some top areas could be
   - Families get preference (most important to preempt families from going down this path)
   - Santa Clara city residents get preference or the project remains exclusive for Santa Clara city residents initially
   - Violent crimes, arson, sex offenders are NOT allowed
   - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
   - Undocumented immigrants are NOT allowed

Response on FAQ (residents not satisfied by the response):



3. **Safety & Security (due to the drug afflicted folks who may not yet have been rehabilitated walking around the neighborhoods)**
   - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
   - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
   - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?
   - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?

Related response on FAQ that doesn't seem to answer the questions from above (the link doesn't seem to work as well):







4. **Budget**:
   - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

No response yet

5. **Throughput**
   - What's the overall throughput of clients across different lifemoves centers going by 120/240/360 days (giving a better understanding of where every client landed after getting a service in **such an interim shelter**)

No Response yet on FAQ (Residents would like to see the data that's based on interim shelters **similar** to the ones proposed for this site)

6. **Kitchen**
   - We would need kitchens especially for family based units

Not yet covered on FAQ (residents who would like families to be prioritized would like proper kitchens for families so that if it becomes permanent housing later on, it remains functional):

7. **Smoking Area**
   - Would the facility have its own smoking area so that the "clients" do not congregate on the streets for smoking?

Not yet covered on FAQ

8. **Quality of Life:**
   - How would the project respect the privacy of residents due to its height?
   - What would be the responsibility of LifeMoves or site managers in keeping the surroundings clean (free of litter etc. from its clients)?

Note yet covered on FAQ

Regards,

Ashish

From:	Sharilyn Yao
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 4:53:50 PM

Hi,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Best,
Sharilyn

From:	Zhe Liu
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:14:03 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: Natalia Bondarenko
To: Adam Marcus
Subject: STRONGLY OPPOSE the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:57:43 AM

I strongly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway. It is close to my school and park and I am concirned about safety of my children.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: A mom and santa clara resident strongly oppose to the homeless project at Benton/Lawrence location
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:05:32 AM

I'm a mom living in Santa Clara, my daughter is 2 years old, she will also go to the preschools around Benton street area, it's called stratford preschool, she will play in the area before and after school. I strongly oppose the shelter plan at Benton and Lawrence, for my daughter, for my family, for my neighbors. it would be a big threat for young kids, for the whole community, please hear our voice and take care the community members.
if you are a parent, for sure you want a safe environment for your kid to grow up. Are you a parent or a future parent? Please help protect the kids, they are the country's future, thanks.

--

Best regards,
Dan Zhao

From: Safe Santa Clara
To: [redacted]
Subject: Benton Shelter - First Open Letter
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:26:04 PM

Mayor Gilmore, Santa Clara Councilmembers, County Supervisors:

Safe Santa Clara County is a grassroots association of residents from across Santa Clara. Our aim is to promote livable cities and neighborhoods which work for all of our residents.

Members of our association strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. We believe this development is wrong for Santa Clara, wrong for the Benton location specifically, and also wrong for its intended patrons. **We urge the City Council to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible.**

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this shelter for "*the more challenging elements of the population"* (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. **This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences.** We believe that there are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. **The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed**. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. It has a devastating impact on the safety and security, economic growth and public health of the affected neighborhoods and the wider Santa Clara community.

We are deeply disappointed and outraged about the misleading communication from county officials, LifeMoves, and city councilmembers regarding the proposed shelter. In the first outreach meeting, officials from the county and LifeMoves showed an apparent lack of knowledge about how many schools and other child facilities were located near the Benton location. In the 2nd meeting, Ms. Consuelo Hernandez claimed there were only four schools located within 1.5 miles of the shelter, which is still incorrect. **The correct number is 15, and will go much higher if we include daycares and after-school programs.** This grossly inaccurate information demonstrates the officials' ignorance of the safety and well-being of the community, as well as the poor quality of their work.

Furthermore, Ms. Consuelo Hernandez attempted to use the Branham and Monterey shelter as an example to justify the proposed location near Benton, stating that the neighborhoods are similar. **However, this comparison is illogical and misleading, as the Branham and Monterey location was a terrible mistake made by the city of San Jose, which should not be repeated by the city of Santa Clara**. Additionally, the impact on the safety of schools near the Benton location will be significantly greater than that of Branham, as there are 15 schools with a total student population of 10,483 within 1.5 miles of Benton, compared to 3 schools and 1,116 students near Branham. **This risk and potential consequences of the Benton location will be 9 times greater than that of Branham**, and will be much higher if we include teachers and staff, and students from daycares and after-school

programs.

Table 1: Schools within 1.5 Miles of the Proposed Benton Site

Schools	Distance from the Property	Student population
Stratford School	0.25 miles	905
Laurelwood Elementary	0.26 miles	623
Pomeroy Elementary	0.33 miles	344
Monticello Academy	0.38 miles	340
Santa Clara High School	0.58 miles	2,030
Basis Lower School	0.62 miles	380
Peterson Middle School	0.63 miles	871
New Valley / Gateway High School	0.75 miles	160
John Sutter Elementary	0.81 miles	530
Briarwood Elementary School	0.90 miles	292
St. Lawrence Elementary and Middle School	0.93 miles	497
Central Park Elementary	1.2 miles	445
Millikin Basics+ Elementary School	1.2 miles	563
Ponderosa Elementary School	1.3 miles	542
Wilcox High School	1.4 miles	1,961
Total student population		**10,483**

Table 2: Comparison of Branhan and Benton location

	Branham and Monterey shelter	**Proposed Benton shelter**
Number of schools within 1.5 miles	3	**15**
List of schools under 15 min walk	i) Hayes Elementary School - 12 min walk	i) Laurelwood elementary - 11 min walk ii) Pomeroy elementary - 13 min walk iii) Stratford - 14 min walk
List of schools under 20 min walk	i) Hayes Elementary School - 12 min walk ii) Davis (Caroline) Intermediate School - 16 min walk	i) Laurelwood elementary - 11 min walk ii) Pomeroy elementary - 13 min walk iii) Stratford - 14 min walk iv) Santa Clara High School - 16 min walk v) Basis lower school - 17 min walk vi) Monticello - 19 min walk
Total number of students affected	1,116	**10,483**

We are also deeply disappointed and angered by the intentional misinterpretation of our concerns for safety. The City, County and LifeMoves have depicted us, taxpayers and voters, as selfish individuals who prioritize our property value over human lives. Resorting to such an act of smearing has completely disregarded the fact that above all, we are parents, spouses, sons, and daughters who are fighting to protect our families and loved ones. We urge the City, County and LifeMoves to stop stereotyping residents and voters, and instead participate in constructive conversation and leverage the wisdom of residents to make our community a better place for everyone.

We are actively seeking alternative ways to help the unhoused population by proposing alternative uses for this land. **Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own housing project for teachers or first responders** who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here. This investment would uplift the community and make it even more thriving, especially given the proximity of the location to schools. This is also suggested by city councilmember Kevin Park.

The association suggests moving the proposed low-barrier shelter **to a less residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals**. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation and addressing the underlying issues.

We believe that these concerns should warrant proper consideration and mitigation by the City, County and LifeMoves.

Regards,
Board Members, Safe Santa Clara County
[redacted]

From: Eric Kyungwoo Sung
To: Adam Marcus
Subject: I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:07:22 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues ... We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, but while it is a good and noble cause to help them, I strongly feel that mixing the “most challenging elements of the population” with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
Besides situated in a densely populated residential area, the proposed site is adjacent to a section of Lawrence Expressway that is 2-way, 8-lane with a tremendous amount of weekday traffic. None of the environmental characteristics, including but not limited to, loud, continuous noise, resultant lower air quality, proximity to high volume of vehicle traffic is conducive to rehabilitation and stabilization of life after living on the street.
The County does own a number of parcels further away from residential areas. Palo Alto has had experience with building a homeless shelter in a non-residential area. In these areas, more space is available, which may enable more space allocation per unhoused individual, compared to the 4-story, container-like tiny rooms for individuals and couples proposed for the Benton site.
Last but not least, there is indisputable, data-backed research showing that a homeless shelter, either an “interim shelter”, “emergency shelter” or called by any other name, inevitably brings negative impacts onto the surrounding neighborhood. Crime rates will rise. Property market value (NOT assessed value thanks to Prop 13 in California) will fall. The county has converted the previous Bella Vista Inn into a homeless care facility this year. The Benton/Lawrence location is barely half a mile away. It seems unfair and unthoughtful to subject communities in the Lawrence/El Camino Real area to another one again.
With all above facts, I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Eric Sung

From: Janet Kim
To: [redacted]
Subject: I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:40:56 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

I am writing to share my great concern and express my opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

First, this proposed shelter is in the middle of very walkable residential neighborhood which has quite a few schools, public parks and many homes. Since the city plans to admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues to this shelter, it will create an unsafe environment for people in this neighborhood. I live across from the proposed shelter location, during the past decade, our family experienced a car theft, our license plate being stolen and other issues. With each incident, our family had to spend so much time and effort to resolve the issue and not to mention all the stress and agony, even though we were the victims, so it is our top priority for me and our family to live in a neighborhood that is safe and to keep it safe. Helping people who are going through difficult time is a good act and I and our family do support that. But this should be done in a way that ensure safety for innocent citizen. And a helping act should cause no harm and danger to the majority of the population.

Also, I learned that the county has converted the previous Bella Vista Inn into a homeless care facility this year which is only about half a mile away from the Benton/Lawrence location. After learning this, it seems questionable as to why our neighborhood is being targeted and it seems rather unfair for our community which is near the proposed shelter location to host another shelter.

For above reasons, I strongly ask the city to consider a non-residential area for a homeless shelter. I heard the city of Palo Alto built a homeless shelter in a non-residential area which is a very reasonable approach. Since the County owns a number of parcels further away from residential areas, this would be an ideal approach to build a shelter.

To preserve the neighborhood that is rather safe, we ask you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

<!--[endif]-->
Regards,
Janet Kim

From: Benny Fong
To: Adam Marcus
Subject: I Oppose to building a homeless shelter at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 12:50:23 PM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am a long time resident of Santa Clara. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to many elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues ... We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, but while it is a good and noble cause to help them, I strongly feel that mixing the “most challenging elements of the population” with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
I urge you to vote NO on homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Ben Wong



From: Debbie Dempsey
To: [redacted]
Cc: Mayor and Council; [redacted]
Subject: Interim Housing at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 3:36:52 PM

I live on Shafer Drive which is within the 1000 foot radius of the proposed Interim Housing Site on the corner of Benton and Lawrence Expressway.

Because a low barrier interim housing site is strongly opposed by my community, myself included, I suggest that the site instead be used for affordable housing for:

1. Firefighters;
2. Police;
3. Nurses;
4. Health Care Workers; and
5. Employees of the City of Santa Clara.

The availability of affordable housing for the above will allow our community to build support services for our homeless population, including but not limited to:

A. Transformational case management for our City of Santa Clara homeless so we can better understand the needs of our homeless population;

B. Reach out to partner agencies for services, as for example:

- dentists;
- legal services and/or partners to help ensure that individuals attend all scheduled court appearances and do not re-offend;
- health care oversight;
- Goodwill or similar for clothing.

Once we are confident that we can successfully address the needs of our homeless population in the city of Santa Clara, then an interim housing site can be identified that is <u>not</u> in a residential neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dempsey
[redacted]

From: Ray Leon
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter, Wrong location
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:20:18 PM

Hello,

My name is Ray de Leon , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find a non-residential land for the facility like this. I'm counting on you.

From: Bei
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 2:29:31 PM

My name is Bee, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find a non-residential land for the facility like this.

I'm counting on you!

Thanks,

Bee
--

pei

From: freyzhou
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Opposing Benton-Lawrence Homeless Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 8:27:13 PM

Hi,

I'm a Santa Clara resident and I live on Thrush way, walking distance away from the proposed homeless shelter. I strongly oppose building the low-barrier shelter in dense residential area. The Mountain View site is built in the center of industrial area, and why can't we just follow them? I don't understand why proposing a similar location when white oak shelter was rejected less than a year ago.

Please vote 'NO' to this.

Best,
Frey

From: puredancing
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 4:46:58 PM

Hi Consuelo,

In the 3/9 in person meeting, there were at least 5 speakers who support this project who came from house advocate organizations (and none of them live in our neighbourhood), one of them told us that you invited her to come. There was at least one speaker who was a student of Ken Yeager. Ken Yeager brought a group of students as well. I talked to the student after the meeting, he has little context for the Benton Project. He even could not tell where exactly the project will be built. He said his professor (Ken Yeager) asked him to come. **All of those behaviors during the public community hearing are considered cheating and manipulating public opinion. Those are unacceptable.**

Given what has happened in the 3/9 meeting, the 3/22 Zoom meeting, without monitoring and supervision, can only be worse. Therefore, to make sure that the 3/22 meeting is transparent and unbiased, we request that **we nominate 1-2 people to co-host with you. Also please make participants list, chat, and discussion board visible to all.**

I will think about your idea of having another in-person public community meeting and get back to you later.

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 5:50 PM Hernandez, Consuelo <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Cindy,
>
> We heard from the community that they would like to engage in small group discussions. There is a function in zoom that allows breakout rooms. This is typically manageable when we have 100 – 150 people in attendance but we anticipate there will be at least 400 people like the first zoom meeting we held. As such, we are working through the logistics.
>
> As staff we do not organize groups that support or oppose the proposal. Our summary of the meeting will include a note that identifies the advocacy group that made comments in support of the project. I was not aware of a SJSU group but will ask our team to go back and watch the recording to see if anyone identified themselves specifically as a SJSU student.
>
> I think a better idea would be for us to set up a separate and additional meeting where you can control the guest list and invite the project team to speak. We have done this in other

communities, and it has led to a better discussion with a smaller group of concerned and direct neighbors.

Please let me know if you are interested and we can work on setting up a date and time before the City Council meeting on April 25th. We can also meet to discuss the logistics of hosting such a meeting and if it makes sense have representatives from your different neighborhood groups attend.

Thanks,

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

[redacted]

From: puredancing <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 5:31 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]>;
[redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

Hello Consuelo,

Can you be more specific about "we are working on setting up the meeting in a way that will allow for small group discussions"? Who will be included in this "small group discussion"? How can you make sure they will represent the neighborhood who live close to Benton location?

To answer your question, by "astroturfing" or "market false impressions of public support", I mean "institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community." There are at lease five of them from house advocate orgs, one told us that you invited her and a few others. Also there was a group of SJSU students who "were asked to come and support this project by our professor Ken Yeager" (quote from one of the students).

I understand you need to ”always find a way to get it done”, and you support the project at Benton location, but the way need to be transparent and unbiased. It cannot be like the 3/9 meeting, or the zoom meeting you hold for Crew View or Bella Visa where you invited supporters to cheat on public opinion. **To sum up, community meetings are to hear from local neighbourhood residents. They should be residents living within a short distance from Benton, NOT everyone. We people who live in the neighbourhood need to make sure the 3/22 meeting is for our NEIGHBOURHOOD.**

To do that, if you said you cannot change the format for the 3/22 meeting, we request that we nominate a co-host from our neighborhood to host the meeting together with you, so we can make sure the selection of speakers is transparent, and there won't be anything behind the screen on your end.

Also, we request you and the co-host make the comments and participants' list visible to everyone. If you have nothing going on behind the screen, I don't see a reason why you won't consider adjusting the zoom meeting settings.

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 15:54 Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted] > wrote:

> Hi Cindy,
>
> I am not exactly sure what you are referring to when you say “astroturfing” or “market false impressions of public support”. Our primary engagement has been with the local community and we invited everyone in attendance last week to speak. People were fairly provided with 1 minute each to speak. We also collected many comment cards that will be shared and included in our Community Engagement Report. Our objective is to share what we heard during the community meetings and have been transparently posting the materials and recordings of the meetings on the project website.
>
> We are hosting the March 22nd meeting via zoom in response to concerns from the community who were not able to attend the in-person meetings. This announcement has already been made and we are working on setting up the meeting in a way that will allow for small group discussions. We will be sending postcards to the neighborhood within a 1,000 foot radius in the coming week.
>
> If there is a desire to host a different type of meeting before the City Council meeting on

April 25th I would be happy to explore that with you and others in the neighborhood.

Thank you for staying engaged and sharing your thoughts.

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: puredancing <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:14 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]>;
[redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

Hello Consuelo and Adam,

My name is Cindy and I live in Birdland neighborhood. I want to **strongly express my indignation and concern regarding the practice of astroturfing before in the third hearing held on March 9th, and for the upcoming meeting on 3/22.** Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community. This action to market false impressions of public support for the project sets up a plot to manipulate public opinion, a clear violation of the principles of law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

The 3/22 meeting will be on Zoom, which is much easier to manipulate community opinion and engage in astroturfing. To make sure that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased, I strongly recommend you to do the following changes to the meeting format:

1. Change to in-person meeting instead, as covid has already ended.

2. Add 1-2 co-hosts that the majority of the neighborhood recommend to co-host with you (our Safe SantaClara County volunteer group can recommend 1-2 person, and they will represent thousands of homes in our community). That person should have the same access and permission as you do.

3. All of you host the meet at the same place. For example, you can host the meeting together in Ms. Hernandez's office.

4. Open the chat, discussion and participant's list and make them visible to all participants.

Again, I hope you both are on the same page with us for a transparent community meeting, which will **not presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents, will not engage in astroturfing anymore.**

Best,

Cindy

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From: sky[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom!
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:00:13 AM

To Representatives of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

As a local resident, **I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. THEY DON'T EVEN LIVE HERE AND THEY DON'T CARE!!!!!! As the representative of residents, how can you let such things happen? Do you truly represent us?**

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual

meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

By A Long term residents of Benton Neighborhood.

From: Yi Huang
To: Consuelo[redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:59:27 AM

Hi,

I'm a current resident in the area that will be affected by this project and I'm writing to express my **disappointment and concerns** with what is going on recently. I heard that institutions and individuals that do not live in the community were taken into serious consideration in this matter, which I found unacceptable and unbelievable. For them, it is just one politically right thing to say with no costs to them at all. For us that are currently living in this area, there is a huge price to pay including sacrificing the safe community because of those unstable and dangerous peeple. The political right needs to stop! Do not act kind when you have nothing to lose.

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Regards,
Yi Huang

From:	Eric Kyungwoo Sung
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:05:53 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From:	Mengxi Li
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:06:36 AM

To whom it may concern:

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-A Santa Clara resident

From:	Amber Hung
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:08:02 AM

Hi Sir,

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--
Regards,
Amber Hung

From:	Amber Hung
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:09:06 AM

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--
Regards,
Jo Yu Hung

From:	Shea Shea
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:10:14 AM

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--
Regards,
Jason Shea

From: Sun Eva
To: Consuelo[redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:11:55 AM

Hi there,

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Thanks,
Eva

From:	Shaun Shroff
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:54:35 AM

Consuelo,

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From: Rui Liang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strongly Oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location.
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:19:24 PM

Hello,

My name is Rui Liang , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find a non-residential land for the facility like this. I'm counting on you.

--
Best Regards,

Rui Liang

From: [redacted]
To: Mayor and Council; Adam Marcus
Subject: We Oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:15:39 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Ben Wo and family
Residents of Santa Clara