Community Engagement Report
Benton and Lawrence Interim Housing

Project Name: Benton and Lawrence
Site Address: Benton and Lawrence
Operator: LifeMoves
Other Project Partners: City of Santa Clara and John Sobrato
City Council District: Councilmember Park
Supervisorial District: Board President Susan Ellenberg**, District 4**



Summary of Opportunity:

In July 2021, the Santa Clara City Council asked City staff to find a site that could be used to develop a new emergency interim housing facility by leveraging the State of California's Homekey Program. Soon after, the 2022 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey reported that homelessness in Santa Clara increased by 35% from 2019 to 2022. Then, Santa Clara's Homelessness Task Force reported that Santa Clara does not have enough interim housing options for unhoused people.

Around the same time, the County's Board of Supervisors asked County staff to look for County-owned land that could be used for interim housing in partnership with local jurisdictions. The site at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway was no longer needed for its original purpose. It is close to services and public transit, good conditions for people to stay while they rebuild their lives. The Board of Supervisors also approved a Challenge Grant program to help support the construction of new interim housing options using modular construction, and LifeMoves responded with ideas.

LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, began by exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site for single adults. Based on input gather through four community meetings, LifeMoves has modified their proposal to a 90-door emergency interim housing site for families.

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Summary of Community Engagement Strategy:

The community engagement included a series of in-person and zoom meetings focused on bringing awareness and education regarding the opportunity to develop a new interim housing site in the City of Santa Clara on a County-owned parcel. In addition, staff responded directly to several members of the public that were interested in having 1:1 conversations and better understanding the proposal.

A project website was hosted on the County's website and all meetings materials as well as recordings from the meetings can be found here:

Benton and Lawrence - Office of Supportive Housing - County of Santa Clara (sccgov.org)

A total of four (4) meetings were held in person or via zoom. Summaries of each meeting are contained in the following pages.

Community Discussion Boards and News Articles

1. Petition · Say NO! to the homeless shelter at corner of Benton Street and Lawrence Exp in Santa Clara · Change.org
2. https://www.svvoice.com/temporary-homeless-housing-project-upsets-community/
3. Santa Clara Residents Blast Homeless Housing Plan | Campbell, CA Patch
4. Home | Safe Santa Clara New (bentonlawrencesc.wixsite.com)
5. Nextdoor
6. Benton | SC Housing Advocates
7. Say No to Benton Shelter (google.com)
8. Create Interim Housing in Santa Clara - Action Network

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Table 1: Summary of Community Engagement Activities and Meetings

Meeting Type / Stakeholders	Tentative Meeting Date	Proposed Meeting Details and Summary of Meeting
City Council Study Session	January 10, 2023	Meeting Type: City Council Study Session Summary of Council Requests: Develop a robust community engagement strategy.
Community Forum No. 1 Zoom	February 10, 2023 6:00 – 7:30PM	Meeting Type: Webinar Style zoom meeting with a presentation, prepared FAQs with panel responses, followed by public comment. Attendance: Approximately 400 community members joined the meeting and submitted over 350 questions and comments submitted through the Q&A function. Summary of Comments, Concerns and Questions: - Provide more information about the approval process and who is required to approve the project. - How can I remain informed? - Explain why this site was selected and the analysis behind the site selection. - There seems to be an overconcentration of shelters in this area, why are you proposing another one so close to Bella Vista? - How do the project partners propose to address safety and security concerns? - How will this property impact real estate values for the adjacent neighborhood? - Provide information for similar sites and share any impacts this has had on their community. - What impacts to parking will this site have? - What will happen to the pumpkin patch? Wil the City accommodate a different location? - We want to help the homeless but not at this location? - Will the City and County consider an alternative location? - I was not properly notified of this meeting. Summary of Q&A: The zoom meeting was set up as a webinar style zoom meeting where participants were encouraged to share their comments. 350 questions and/or comments were submitted. Meeting materials can be located on the project website.

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Meeting Type / Stakeholders	Tentative Meeting Date	Proposed Meeting Details and Summary of Meeting
Community Forum No. 2 In-person Mission City Church 1290 Pomeroy Avenue Santa Clara, 95051	March 1, 2023 6:00 – 8:00PM	Meeting Type: In-person meeting with a presentation which included the first draft of the proposal followed by public comment. Vice Mayor Park and Councilmember Hardy both spoke at the end of the meeting. Members of the public wishing to speak were given 1 minute each to share their questions or concerns. Attendance: Approximately 390 community members joined the meeting and submitted 86 comment cards (See Attachment B). • 81 opposed • 3 supporting • 2 questions Summary of Comments, Concerns and Questions: - Do residents get a vote? - Is this a done deal? If not, who has to approve or reject the proposal? - Did you factor the safety of the children in the neighborhood? - Can you tell us how many schools are within 1.5 miles from the proposed location of the new interim housing site? - What other locations did the County consider? - Why can't you find a location that is not so close to residential uses or close to parks? - Show us other examples of other sites being built near residential uses. - Explain why this site was selected and the analysis behind the site selection. - Consider providing housing for families and children. - Will you allow those with criminal background to live at the facility? - Provide a summary of the staff that will be available on site. - Provide data that shows the impacts of similar projects. - The church uses the parking lot for overflow, what will they do now? How will this impact parking in the neighborhood? - What services are offered on site? - What about people that have a mental health illness? How will they receive services?

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Meeting Type / Stakeholders	Tentative Meeting Date	Proposed Meeting Details and Summary of Meeting
Community Forum No. 3 In-person Mission City Church 1290 Pomeroy Avenue Santa Clara, 95051	March 9, 2023 6:00PM – 8:00PM	Meeting Type: In-person meeting including a presentation and responses to several questions asked during the prior meetings. Assistant Chief of Police responded to several community questions about safety and crime rates. Members of the public wishing to speak were given 1 minute each to share their questions or concerns. Attendance: Approximately 265 community members joined the meeting and submitted 92 comment cards (Attachment C). • 75 opposed • 2 supporting • 15 had questions Summary of Comments, Concerns and Questions: - Who is responsible for paying for services? - The Palo Alto project saw a significant increase in cost, how will you ensure that does not happen at this site? - If this project is built, who will I call? - I am worried about the low-barrier entry? How will you decided who is housed at the facility? - This project will draw more homeless people into our neighborhood. - I am concerned that you are placing too many rules on the unhoused population. - Will you consider a project proposal that serves more families. The White Oak Lan project was 100% families, why can't you do that at this time site? - I read a New York Times article about a study that clearly shows the negative impacts to property values that were close to a shelter. - How is interim housing different than congregate shelter? - What do people do all day when they are staying at the facility? - I am afraid they are going to walk through my neighborhood. - Is this work part of a larger strategy? - Why can't you build this 10 miles south of this area? - People don't want shelter; I visited a site and it did not seem like it was being used. - Give us information about other sites. - What are the typical rules for these types of facilities?

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Meeting Type / Stakeholders	Tentative Meeting Date	Proposed Meeting Details and Summary of Meeting
Community Forum No. 4 Zoom	March 22, 2023 6:00PM – 8:00PM	Meeting Type: Zoom meeting. Staff provided a presentation that included responses to several questions raised in the prior meeting and introduced two alternative options that LifeMoves would be exploring in partnership with the City and County teams. Members of the public wishing to speak were given 1 minute each to share their questions or concerns. Attendance: Approximately 400 community members joined the meeting. The chat function was disabled due to participants not following the rules. Summary of Comments and Concerns: - What exactly is the point of a Community Advisory Committee? - You cannot compare our neighborhood with the San Jose neighborhood. - There are more schools and a higher student count in our neighborhood compared to San Jose. - The cost to serve one person per year is too expensive. Who is responsible for paying this? - Why don't you find an alternative like renting hotel rooms. - Explain in more detail how you will ensure our safety. - I spoke to a homeless family and they don't want to live here. - How is this project different than the Milpitas Homekey site. - How will a decision be made by the City Council? - What can I do to help the future tenants and are there volunteer options?

List of Attachments

Attachment A: Frequently Asked Questions

Attachment B: Community Meeting No. 2 – Public Comment Cards

Attachment C: Community Meeting No. 3 – Public Comment Cards

Attachment D: Emails received by County Staff

Attachment E: Emails received by City Staff

Community Engagement Report
Benton and Lawrence Interim Housing
Attachment A – Frequently Asked Questions

What is interim housing?
Interim housing is short-term housing intervention designed to provide unsheltered individuals with private sleeping units, restrooms and showers, similar to very small studios. Program participants typically stay in interim housing for a few months while they stabilize their lives and look for permanent housing. While living in emergency interim housing, participants recuperate from the physical and mental stress of living in "crisis mode" on the street, and they have access to supportive services that can lead to positive outcomes.

How is interim housing different than other shelter programs?
Older shelter models included the use of large congregate shelters that serve people in one large space with shared restroom and community facilities. Over the past five years, communities across the nation have been moving away from congregate shelter and have been exploring new non-congregate approaches to sheltering people who are homeless. Locally in Santa Clara County this includes tiny homes like, pallet shelters like Casitas de Esperanza, Mountain View Homekey, and [insert]. This new approach of providing non-congregate shelters provides a more dignified transitional step than the traditional congregate shelter setting. Participants have shared the benefits of having a private room with their own restroom and the amenities on site that focus on wellness and housing.

Why is interim housing necessary in the City of Santa Clara?
According to the 2022 homeless census conducted in February, at least 440people are homeless in Santa Clara on any given night, including 375who have no shelter (i.e., live on the street or elsewhere outside). People experiencing homelessness often find themselves trapped in a downward spiral. When someone falls into homelessness, it becomes harder to find a job, harder to find permanent housing, harder to stay healthy, harder to maintain relationships with family and friends, and harder to preserve mental wellness.

What about on-site staffing and security?
The facility will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

How and when will a decision be made about the target population?
Staff will propose a recommendation during the April 25, 2023 City Council meeting. During this meeting the City Council may direct staff to consider a different target population.

Who is currently experiencing homelessness in the City of Santa Clara?
According to County HMIS data from 2021, the majority (79%) of City of Santa Clara-affiliated households experiencing homelessness are households without children. The following table summarizes household types that are experiencing homelessness and who are affiliated with the City of Santa Clara:

City of Santa Clara-Affiliated Households who Experienced Homelessness in Calendar Year 2021, by Household Type (HMIS)	
Single Adult Households	520
Families with Children under 18	137
Multiple-Adult Households	19
Unaccompanied Children under 18	10

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Attachment A – Frequently Asked Questions

What supportive services will be provided to interim housing participants?
The services offered to participants are intended to address the trauma of homelessness. Participants have access to healthcare, mental health counseling, addiction treatment, job placement assistance, housing search assistance, and life skills classes such as financial literacy. Each participant is assigned a case manager who acts as an advisor and helps connect participants to these services.

How does interim housing impact nearby neighborhoods?
The City and the County expect the interim housing participants to be good neighbors. The interim housing community will have 24/7 professional staffing and security. All interim housing participants and visitors check in upon arrival, and staff monitors the surrounding area for loitering. The City and the County are committed to creating a community advisory committee (CAC) that includes neighbors who want to be involved. CACs are vital resources that help problem solve, improve operations and neighborhood compatibility, and celebrate successes.

Will the siting of this interim housing project next to my neighborhood negatively impact the value of my property?
No. There is no local study that shows the value of properties being negatively impacted as a result of siting interim housing next to other residential properties.

There Doesn't Go the Neighborhood: Low-Income Housing Has No Impact on Nearby Home Values - Trulia Research

Will the interim housing site add to parking challenges and pedestrian safety in nearby neighborhoods?
The proposed interim housing community will include on-site parking for staff and participants. The site will also include bicycle parking. The proposal has been designed with a focus on traffic and pedestrian safety.

How does the County select sites for interim housing?
The County evaluates sites based on several factors, including lot size, accessibility for construction equipment, proximity to transit, access to utilities, access to medical services, and access to grocery stores. In addition, County staff consider the current location of permanent interim housing options across the County and work with local jurisdictions who are interested in expanding interim housing options in their communities.

Has the proposal already been approved?
No. On January 10, 2023, the City Council held a study session on homelessness response strategies. During the meeting the City Council indicated they wanted staff to work with the County to conduct community outreach and explore the potential development of interim housing at the County owned site located at Benton and Lawrence Expressway. The project partners held four community meetings to listen and learn about any community concerns or ideas that can shape the design, programming, and or operations of the proposed interim housing. Based on the input received, LifeMoves and the Sobrato Foundation have modified the first draft of the proposal and this version will be presented to the City Council on April 25, 2023 for their consideration.

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Attachment A – Frequently Asked Questions

Is the Benton and Lawrence site already zoned for the proposed shelter and does the General Plan allow for this use?

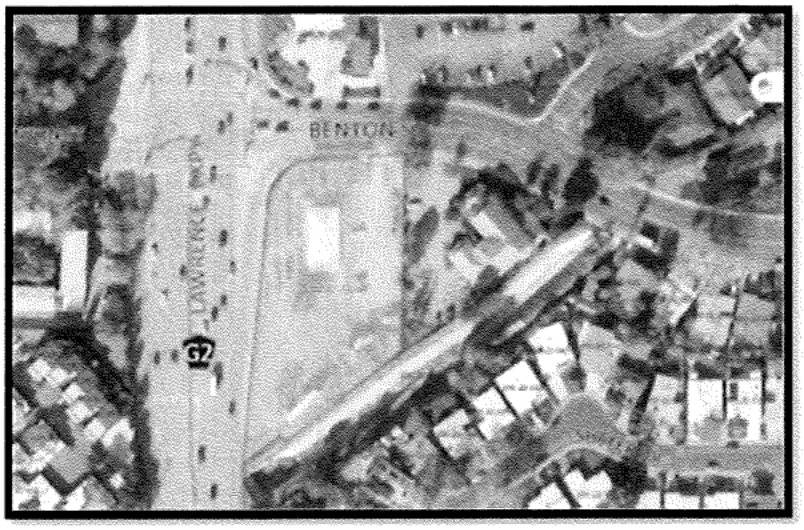
The site is zoned R1-6L Single Family and has a General Plan Land Use Designation of Very Low Density Residential. The state's HOMEKEY program provides funding to expand housing for persons experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness. The Program is exempt from CEQA (environmental review) and state law deems HOMEKEY funded projects consistent and in conformity with any applicable local plan, standard, or requirement, and allowed as a permitted use, within the zone in which the structure is located, and shall not be subject to a conditional use permit, discretionary permit, or to any other discretionary reviews or approvals (Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.7 50675.1.1). Rezoning would not be required to build the proposed project.

How will the site be funded in the short and long term?

Funding to support the operations will include an annual capital contribution from LifeMoves, funding allocated to the City of Santa Clara through the Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) program, and funding from various grants managed by the County's Office of Supportive Housing and the Santa Clara County Continuum of Care.

COMMENT CARDS COVER PAGE

Community Meeting No.2 – Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Lawrence Expressway & Benton
Comment Card



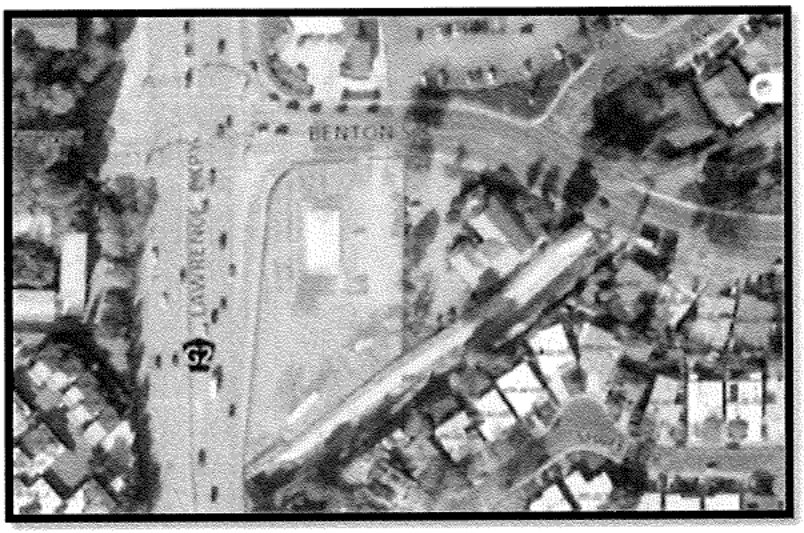
This site could be a great case of needs and opportunities coming together in harmony. In July 2021, the City of Santa Clara's City Council asked City staff to find a site to house unhoused people. They wanted to apply for state funding that would be available for that use. Soon after, the 2022 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey reported that homelessness in Santa Clara increased by 35% from 2019 to 2022. Then, Santa Clara's Homelessness Task Force reported that Santa Clara does not have enough interim housing for unhoused people.
Around the same time, the County's Board of Supervisors asked County staff to look for County-owned land that could be used for interim housing. The site at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway was no longer needed for its original purpose. It is close to services and public transit, good conditions for people to stay while they rebuild their lives. The Board of Supervisors also approved a challenge grant program for interim housing, and LifeMoves responded with ideas.

LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name Ann-Marie Sierra	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad [redacted]	
Comment: While I whole-heartedly agree with work of LifeMoves, as a teacher at Pomeroy I would much rather see the focus of the project be families. We already have interim housing at Bella Vista for singles. Why can't we support the families in our area. There are so many schools in the area that would gladly support these families. Based on public comment from the previous meeting this might be more welcome.	

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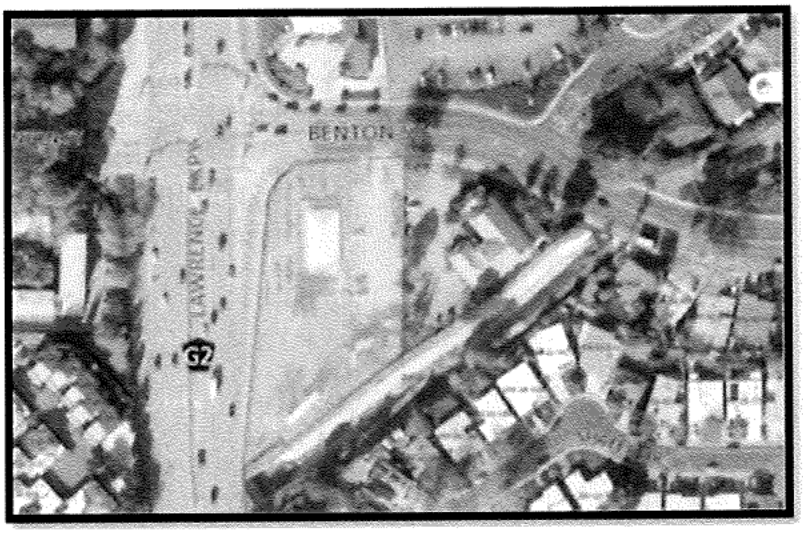
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Name	BHARGAVA
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	This is dengen . we dont want trouble for our kids, There is a Park Infront where Children Play tennis, There is a School Near by This is almost Plgis with fire.

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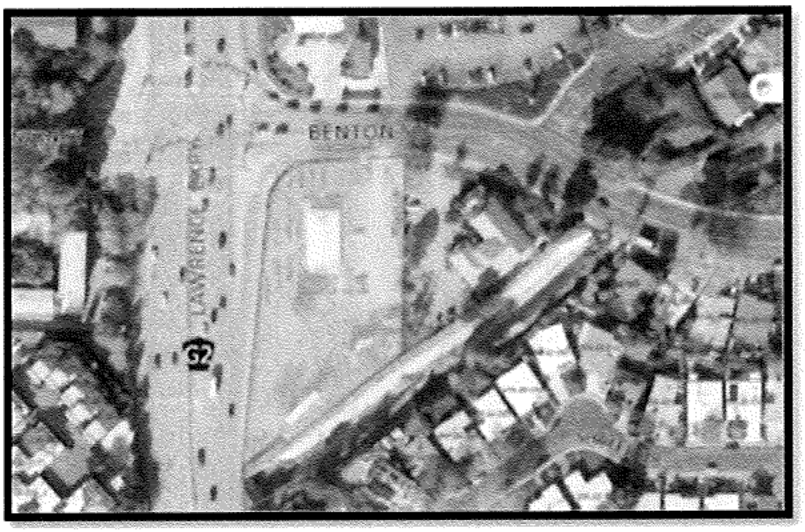
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Name Vera	
Address	
Email Address [redacted]	
Comment: 1. What is the homeless for 2023 compare with 2022 as things at pandemic would be different as now 2. What County and city does to provide job etc. skill set support for people like those homeless as this actually ~~is~~ the only fundamental support to people	

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3. What county or city will do ~~assuming if this does~~ to address the big safety concern to the community by this.

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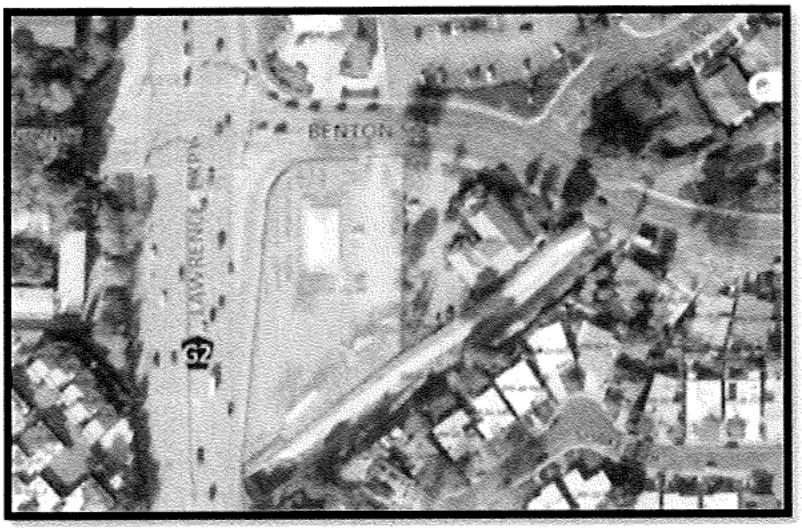
Name	Deepak Rama
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

1. I am worried about safety of the neighborhood.
2. Several kids live here, play around streets.
3. This is the only place for holding pumpkin patch & X-mas tree for years. Where are those gonna happen.
4. There are schools nearby. concerned about school safety as well.

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Name	MANISH GARG
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

We DO NOT SUPPORT this project.
This interim housing project has low barrier to entry and will attract ex-cons, drug addicts and pedophile. This poses imminent danger to our community, especially children.
Sobrato is a donor to Joint VSA (Susan's foundation)
Consider building permanent housing for low income families & single parents with young children.
Please save our community & don't just chase federal dollars.

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Name Shalini Venkatesh	
Address [redacted]	
Email Add[redacted]	
Comment: I strongly support this proposal. I've lived here for over 30 years and see the need for serious effective action. I think this could be a great option to make an impact.	

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Name Asha DuMonthier	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad [redacted]	
Comment: I strongly support the proposed interim housing project at Lawrence & Benton. I believe our neighborhood, like every other in the county, needs to be part of the solution to the severe housing crisis facing our area. It's past time we had a shelter with supportive services for unhoused residents in the City of Santa Clara.	

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Name	Ashish Patel
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

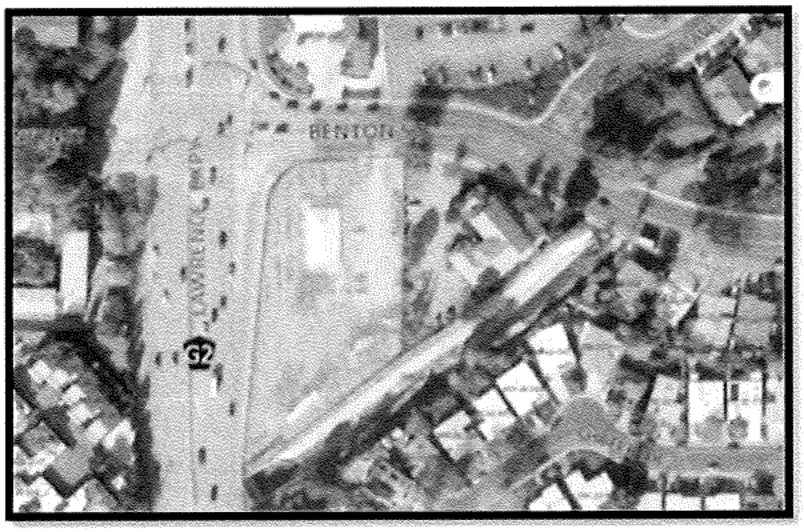
Comment:
I do not support construction of this shelter
- No safety, background checks
- Non adequate provisioning of mental health support
- NO one can guarantee safety of neighborhood when you don't know who is walking around, playing in park,
- Build a permanent homeless shelter
- Build a senior or family homeless shelter
- Build a low income housing

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LifeMoves Contact: Marie Jackson mjackson@lifemoves.org

- Name, Resident of Sunnyvale-Santa Clara 23 years
- Appreciate your efforts to line up this meeting
- I believe in helping homeless, I have volunteered
- I do not support this homeless shelter

- Why?
  - No background checks
  - No guarantee to handle mental illness → 120 rooms.
  - Statistically 2 to 2.4 of all humans fall in safe category but you have outliers
  - Are we that careless that we are waiting for incident to happen?
    me
  - If we don't plan safety, background checks enough mental illness support
    ⇒ You all decision makers will be responsible for whatever happens
  - Have a shelter that is permanent, build a senior, family homeless housing
  - God forbid I become homeless, I don't want to go to a shelter where it is not safe
  - other near by cities Sunnyvale, Saratoga observed: drastic reduction in homeless population. they did not open temporary shelters, how did that problem get fixed? what are the best practices?

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Name	Menayao Fu
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

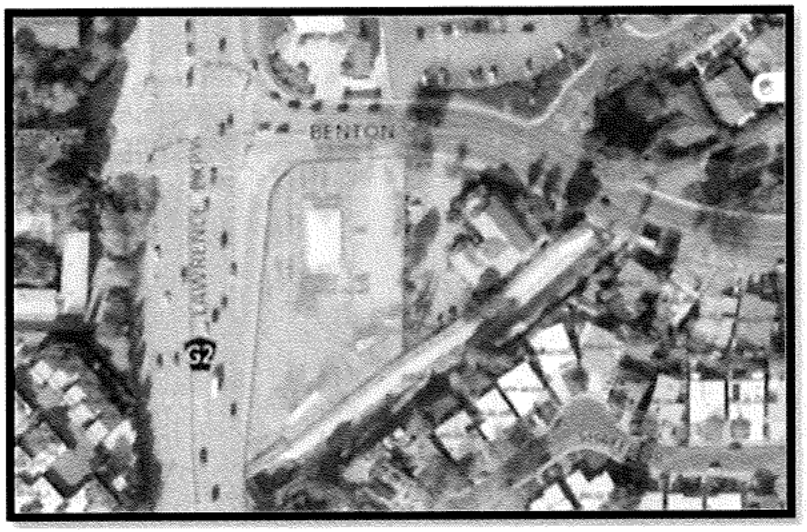
Comment:

I strongly disagree to build this site.

It brings safety issues to the neighborhood.

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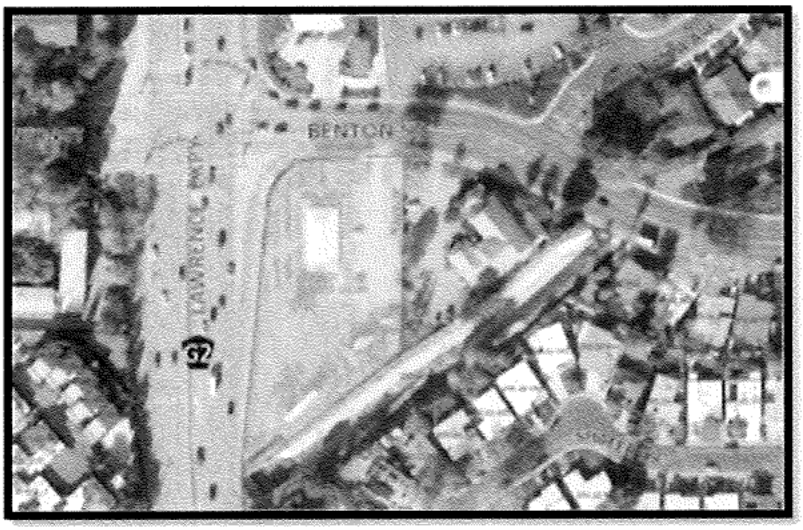
Name	Yan Dong
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

I strongly oppose the location of this low barrier shelter near many schools. Please give safety of youth and senior high priority. We already have Bella Vista Inn as a shelter. You need to build a facility that provide full service to the unhoused population with medical and treatment to help them back with a job.

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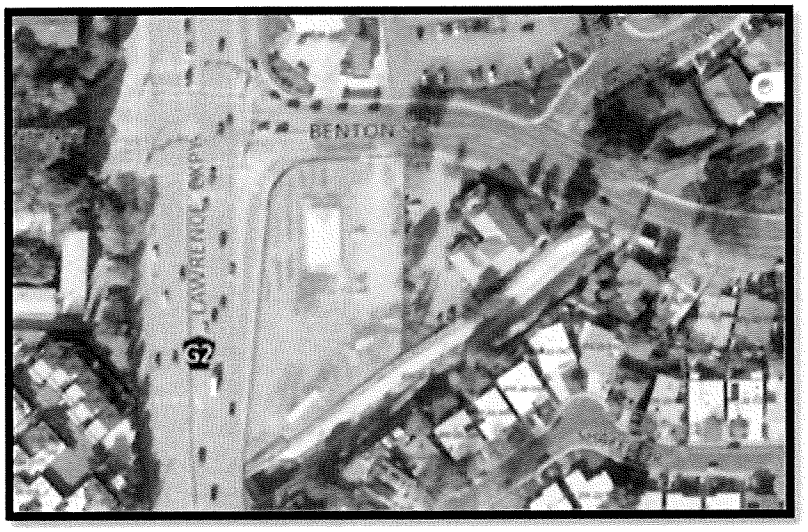
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Name	Qiang Chen
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	No homekey to save our kids, our community and our life! Strongly go against this project! Hear from local people voice!!!

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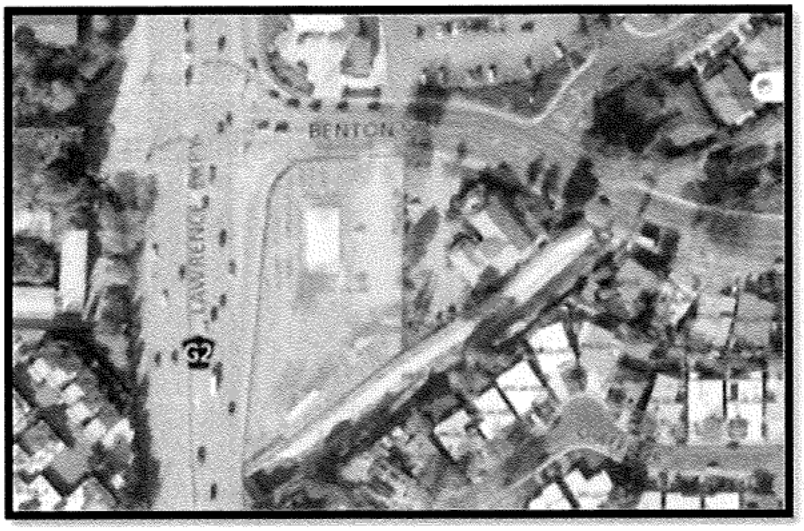
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Name MIMI FUN	
Address	
Email Address	

Comment:
NO HOMEKEY!

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Name	JIANG CAI
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	No HOMIKEY !

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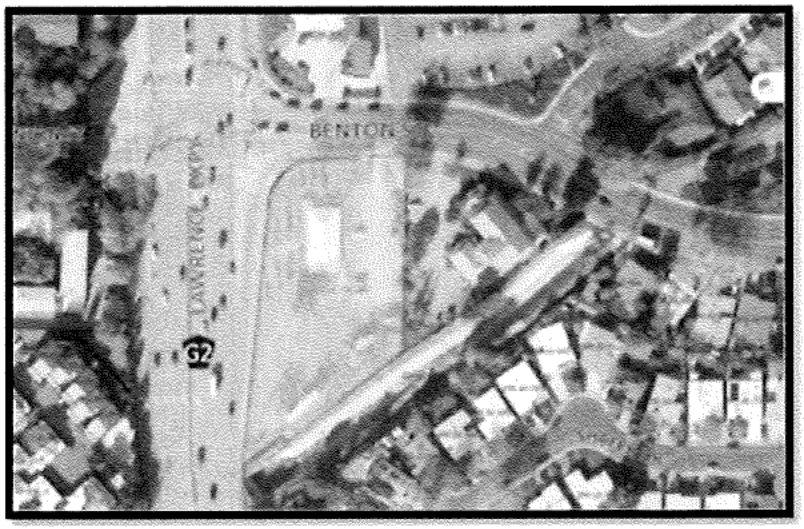
Name	Ben Hertzberg
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

I believe in housing our homeless, BUT this location is a terrible choice.
Substance abusers should not be housed across the street from a liquor store.
I've tried to open a discussion about alternative sites, including non-county land paid for by the community. No responses. Do u care?

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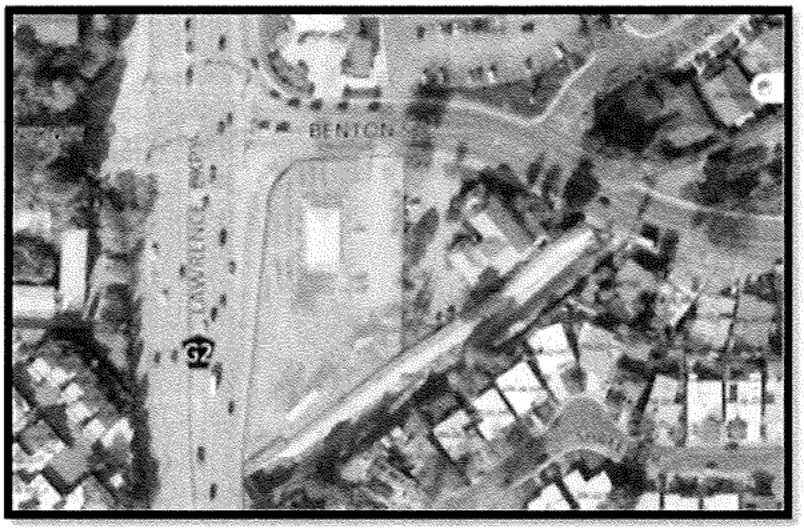
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Name	Leeanna Johnson
Address	[redacted]
Email Add	
Comment:	Mentally ill people do not have the patience to cross at the light on Benton for 7-11 & liquor store. They will cross in the middle of the street.

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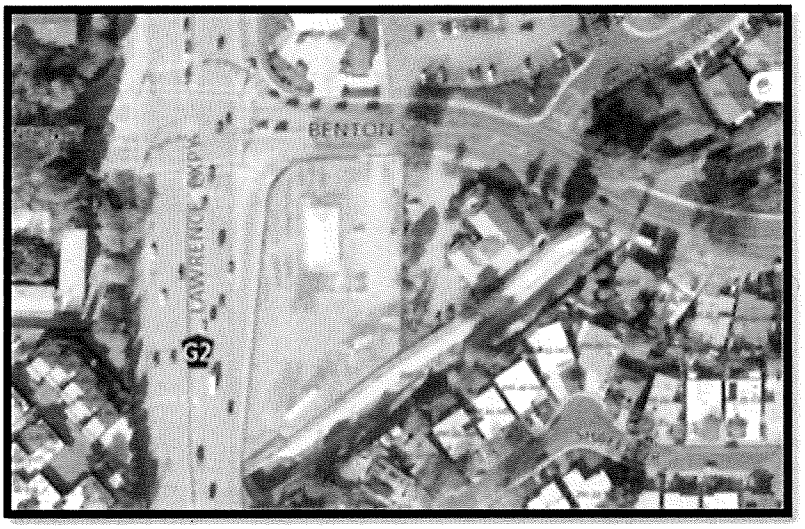
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Name	Nick Xu
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	NO Shelter Here! Wrong Location!

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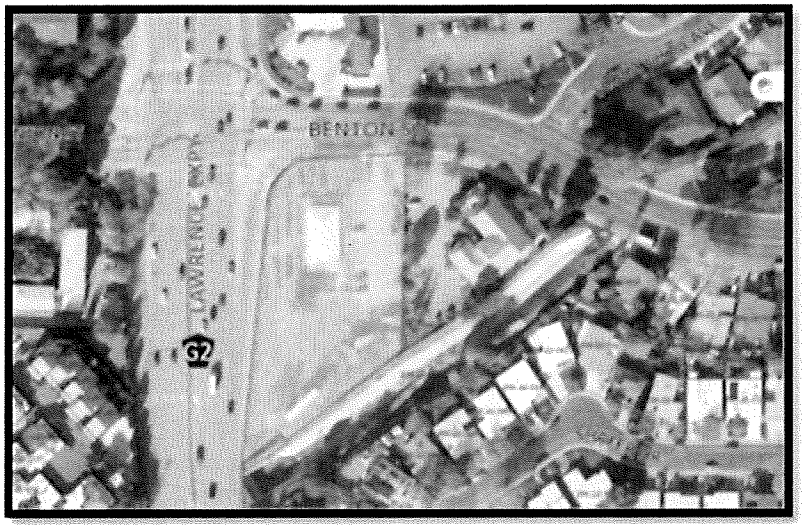
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Name Wei	
Address	
Email Address	
Comment: Strongly oppose - unsafe location - opaque process	

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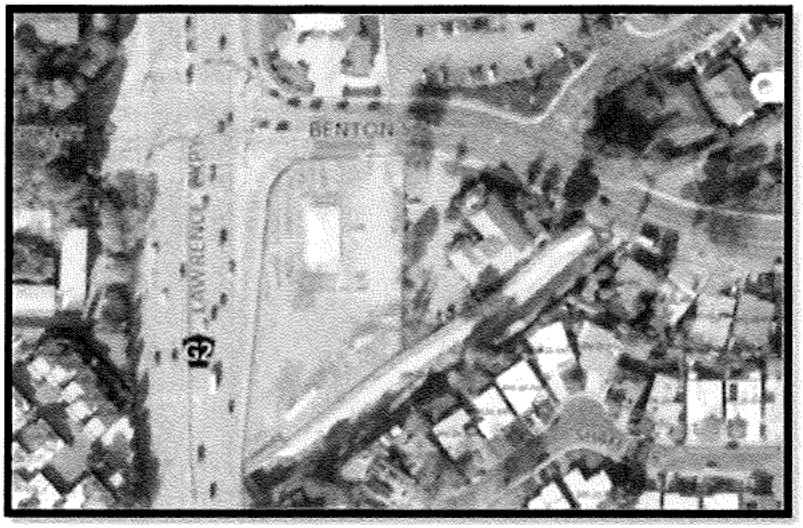
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Name Richard	
Address	
Email Address	
Comment: Strong opposition - unsafe location for residents - non transparent approval Process ~	

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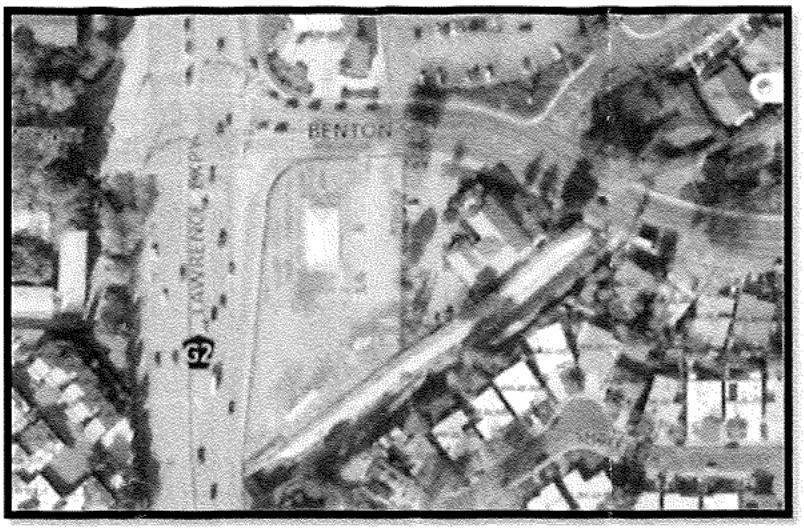
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Name	Catharine.
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	

① Do Enviromental Evalfaction please
② homeless is not your only client.
No

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Name	Jianing Yu
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

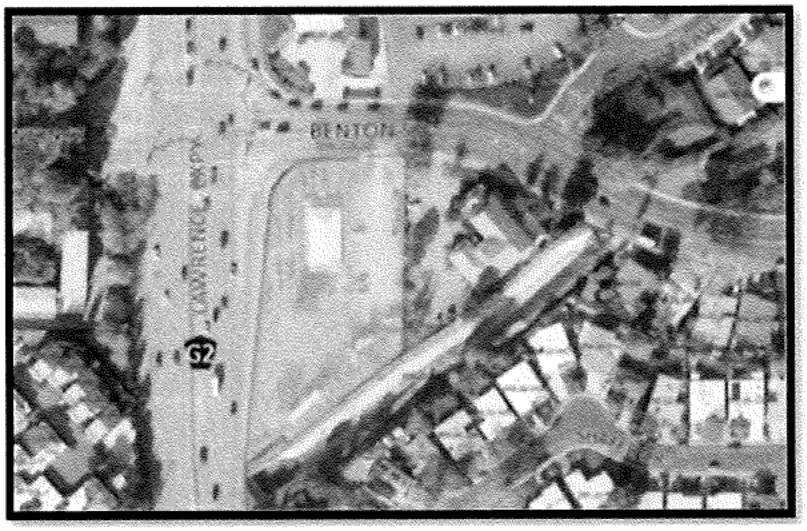
I urge City [redacted] councils and County supervisor to vote NO for this project.

This hearing didn't address the safty concerns. Having a low barrier shelter in this neighbood is not safe to kids and people living here.

I'm also disappointed by the presentors in the hearing because the presentors are not honest with the truth.

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Name Jue Lan	
Address [redacted]	
Email Add	

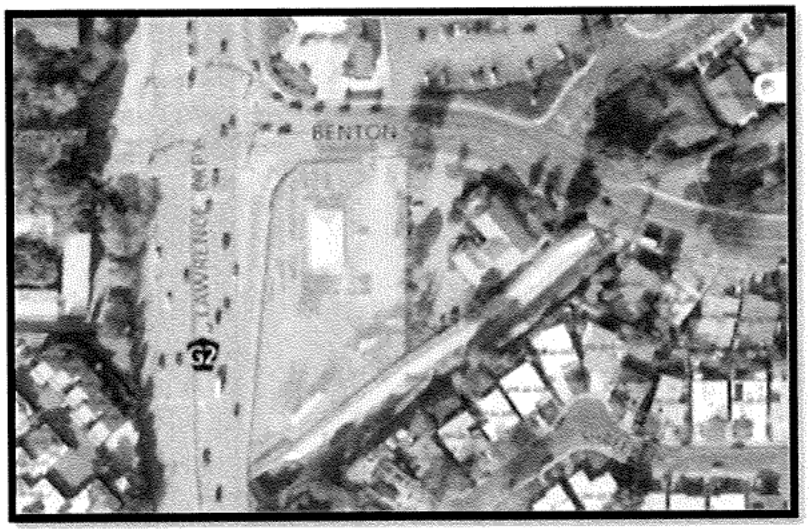
Comment:

I urge city council and county's board of supervisors to Vote N/O to this proposal. Reasons being:

- Low barrier nature poses risk to nearby schools, daycares, parks etc.; this is not the right place for this project
- Lack of transparency and false information + biased propoganda

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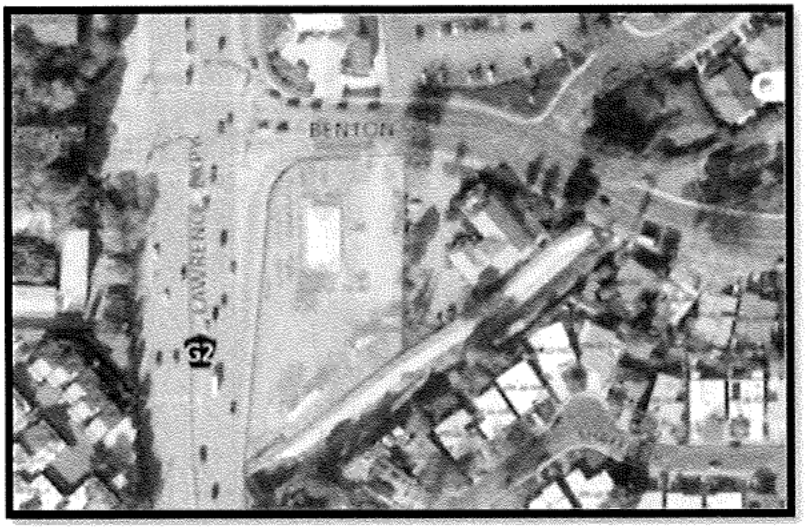
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Name	Maria Salvatore
Address	[redacted]
Email Ad	

Comment: I opposed this location. It's a very high traffic location not good for the clients. And this is a very family oriented neighborhood with many schools, parks and people walking the neighborhood which will be adversely impacted by people with mental and drugs problems which inevitably will be part of the shelter with low prerequisites for entry. I don't see how these people can be reasonably transitioned to permanent housing.

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Lawrence Expressway & Benton
Comment Card



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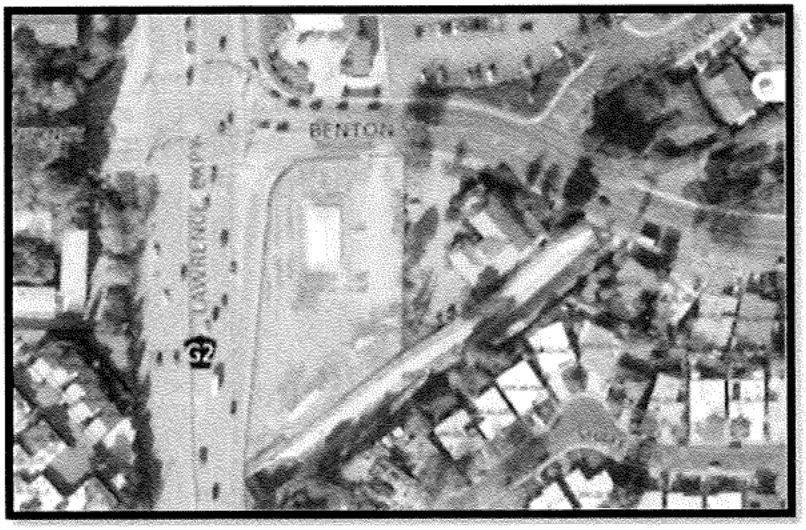
Name	DEEPTI GARG
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

1. Residential area with schools, parks, single family homes is NOT the appropriate site for this type of shelter.
2. What is the location of Mountain View shelter. Is it residential as this one?
3. The plan has 4 floors which invades privacy of single family homes based on the overlooking windows. ~~These are~~
4. Are the mental illness, ridden people & criminal background (on parole) going to remain in the building the entire day and night?

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Name	saihua lin
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

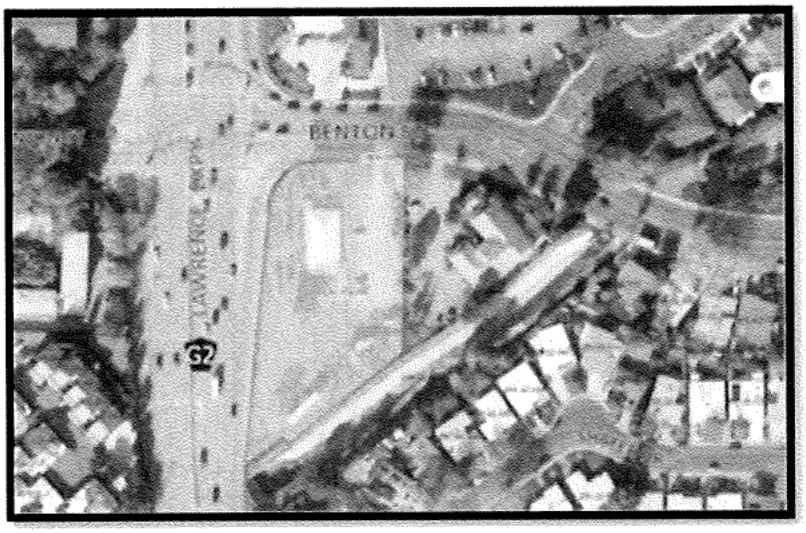
Comment:

This site is surrounded by lots of schools.
I strongly object to build a shelter here.
The decision is lacking consideration and wrong.

NO SHELTER!

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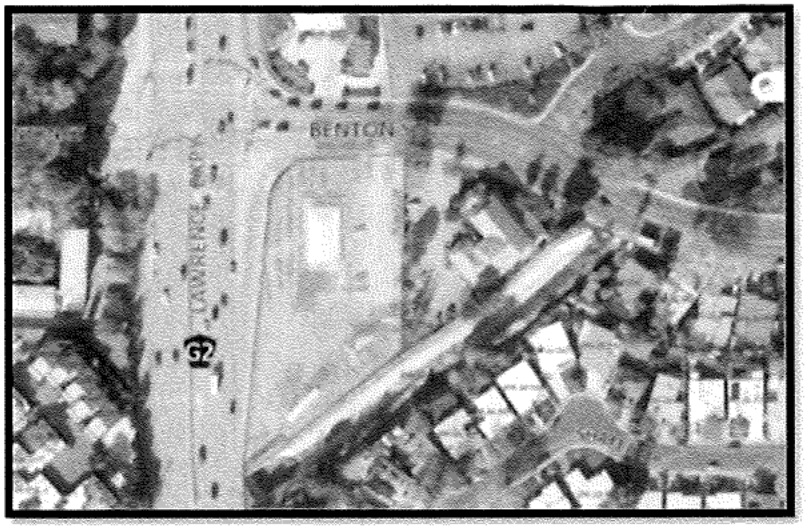
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Name	Yiwei Sun
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:
I dont support this proposal. This site has many schools and residential areas. I bought the house here, and my house price will be hugely decreased dut to this homeless shelter. The data & research online shows the crime rate increased around the shelter. ~~I don't~~ ~~The shelter~~ The solution to homeless is not low barrier shelter, but provide working opportunities, help them remove drug addict, and remove alchohle addict.
No shelter in Santa Clara.

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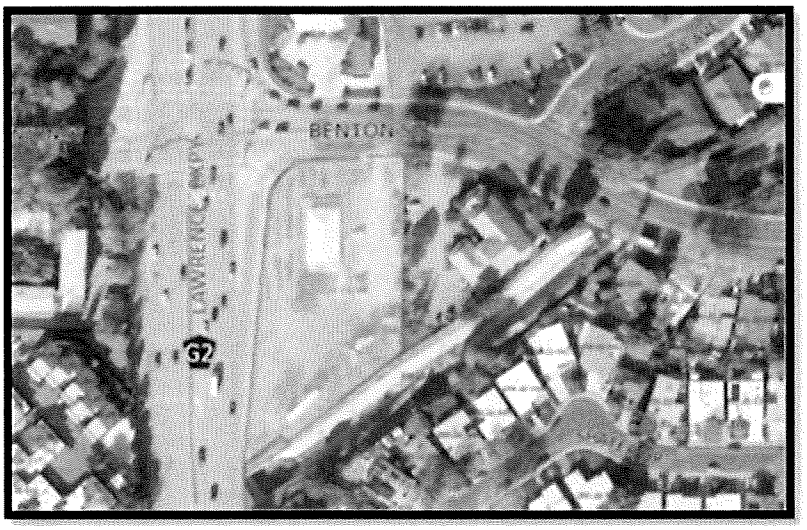
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Name Suzanne Mohr	
Address [redacted]	
Email Add [redacted]	
Comment: I am not in support of this. A homeless shelter will decrease the property value & attract unwanted / negative energy into our community. Homeless people have already been roaming Benton Street & even trying to squat on our property. This is a NO for me.	

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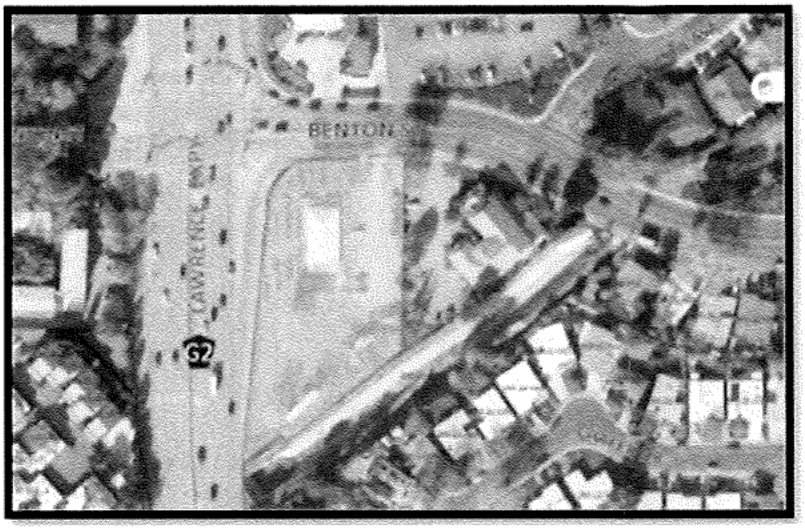
Name	Xiaoling Wang
Address	
Email Address	

Comment:

① Concern of safety: with all the elders & young kids, it will be big concern of safety.
② Concern of Sanitation: from other similar housing, with all the needles & garbage dumping, this will be problem.
③ Concern for the young kids: for them, not only physical safety, they may get mental stress from exposure to unhoused people with mental or drug issue

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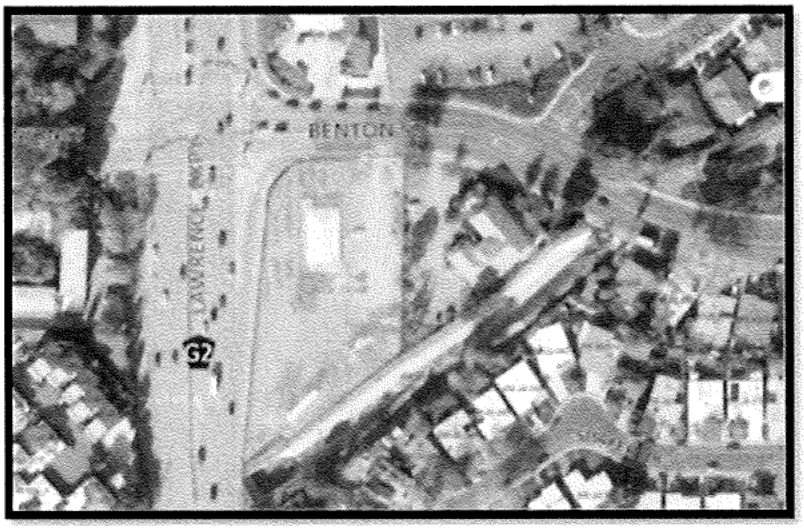
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Name	Anna An
Address	[redacted]
Email Addre	[redacted]
Comment:	~~I don't hate~~ I don't think it is a good idea to build interim housing using this Land. Every year this Land is used for kid activities. My kids Love the pumpkin patch, jumping house .... Please keep this land for our kids!!!

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I am against this proposal !!! very much.

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• I'm a renter, why would this incentivize me to move in?

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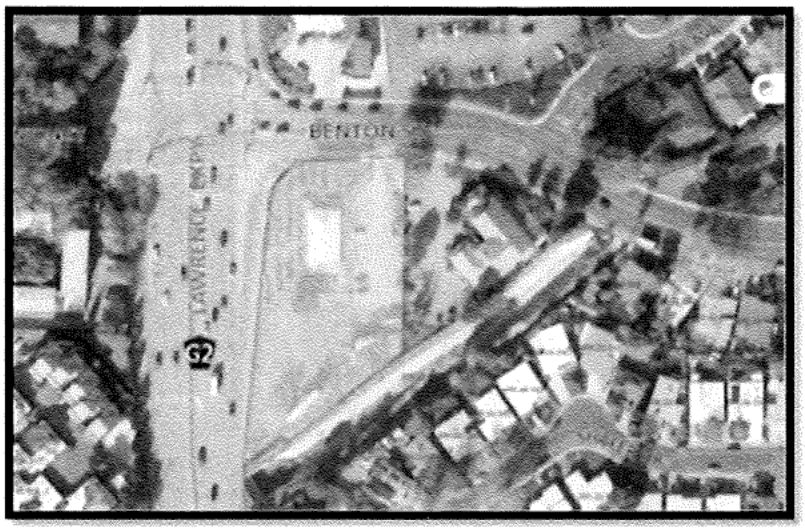
Name	Andrew Afonso
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:
- Great idea, poor delivery. Find land.
- You didn't seem prepared for this.
- Seemed haphazardly proposed based simply on already owning the land. Cities invest in land.
- I got the flyer in time for 2nd meeting & IDK what people are complaining about.

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- What happens to site if funding is pulled, or significantly lowered in later legislation?
- All that said, its city life in the bay, "people should just move out"

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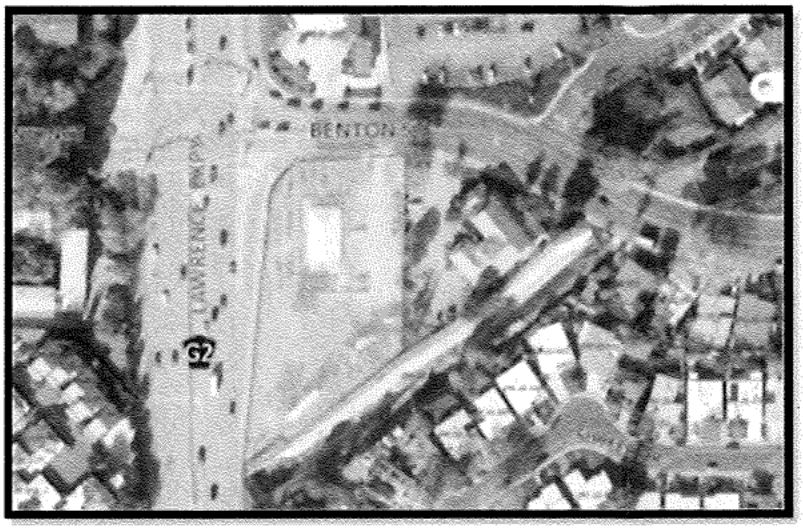
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Name Ishani Bhatt	
Address [redacted]	
Email Addres [redacted]	
Comment: Location of this shelter is unsafe, it can bring criminals in which is major concern for our safety.	

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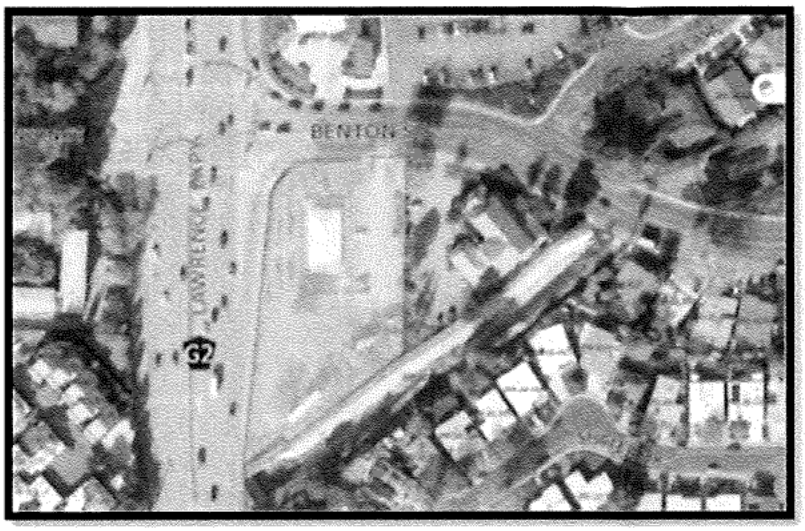
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Name Cornelius Raths	
Address [redacted]	
Email Addr[redacted]	
Comment: I believe the presence of a "low-barries" shelter poses a risk for the safety of the neighborhood. I also believe that this shelter is not helping its clients, either. Clients should be provided housing that is distributed across the city, as decades worth of data have shown.	

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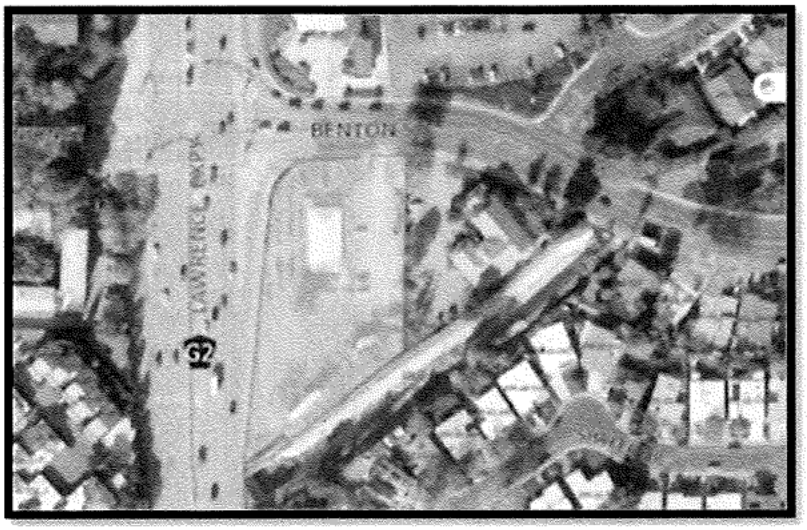
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Name Jingyang Zhong	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad[redacted]	

Comment:
I believe the shelter will pose significant risk to the neighbourhood, where a lot of schools are located. This area is for family to raise kids and we feel less and less secure over the years. We strongly disagree with this proposal.

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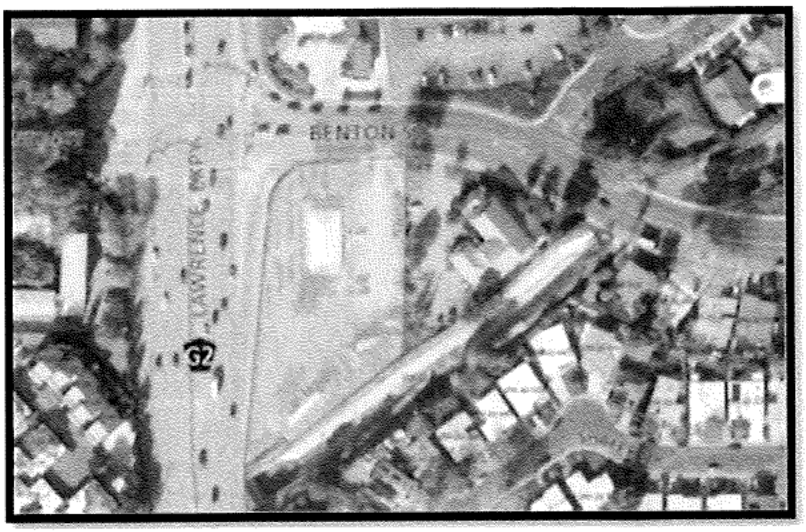
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Name Tom MacDevitt	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad [redacted]	

Comment:
1.) Which elected officials are you sharing this information
2.) This location is within 300' of ~~a transition~~ an existing transitional home
3.) This location is within 1000' Feet of a park
4.) This location is ~~not~~ within ½ mile of public transition
5.) why do you want 18 months to reach out to us
6.) This location is in Flood zone A and Zoned R-1

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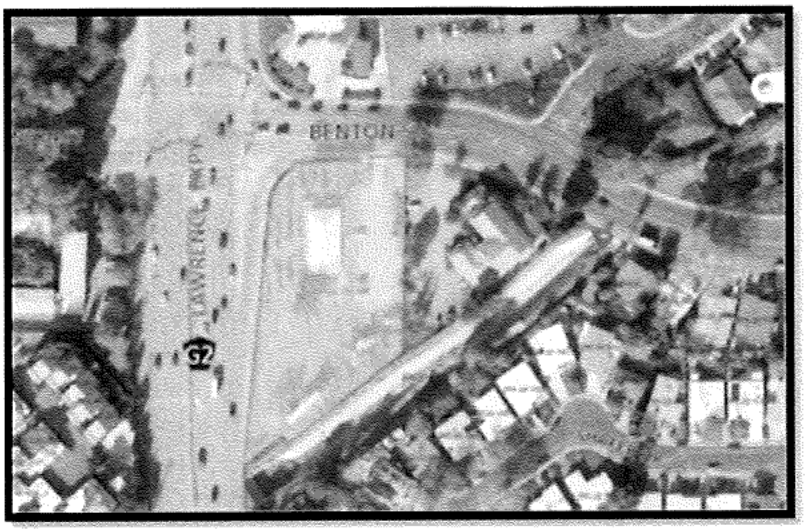
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Name	Tai Mei Yeh
Address	[redacted]
Email Addre	[redacted]
Comment:	No to homeless shelter by Lawrence & Benton. Reason is parking. There are ~~few~~ no off street parking adjecent to project area. Every time I park near the project area, I have to run across benton ~~with~~ when no pedestrian walk close to Flora Vista Ave and benton. Cars run very fast on Benton. I could image a lot of homeless will get killed on Benton if shelters were build at this location.

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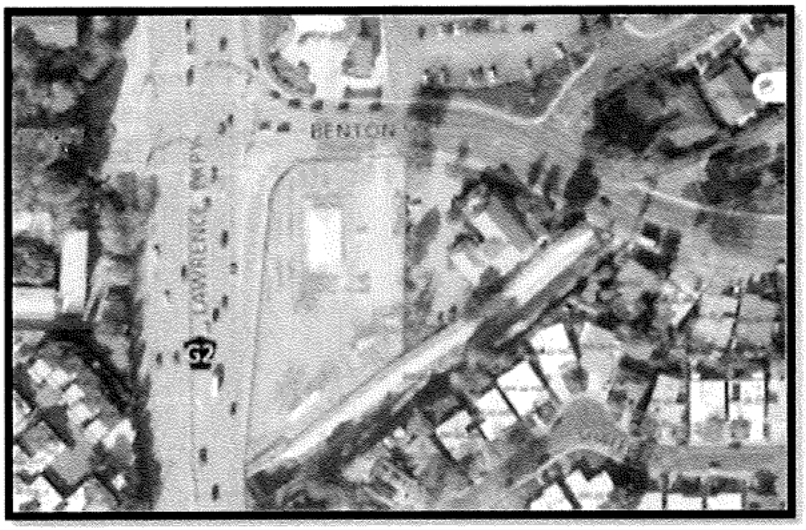
Name	Xulu Ja
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

I strongly oppose building the housing at the Benton and Lawrence site. there are multiple elementry schools near by, the project poses a safty threat to our children. The housing can be built somewhere else, not close to our kids. The city is using tax-payers' money to hurt its residents. This is attracting more homeless people to the neighbourhood. This is America, you are turning it to a communist country.

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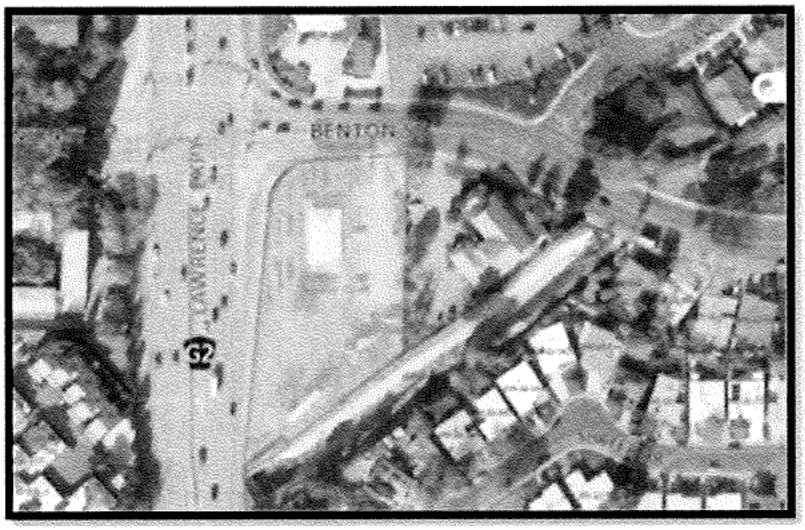
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Name Xudong Zhu	
Address [redacted]	
Email Addre [redacted]	
Comment: I'm against this location. It's not a right location for the shelter. The trafic is not safe for mental disorder person. And also there are 4 school very close to the site. It's not safe for children and students.	

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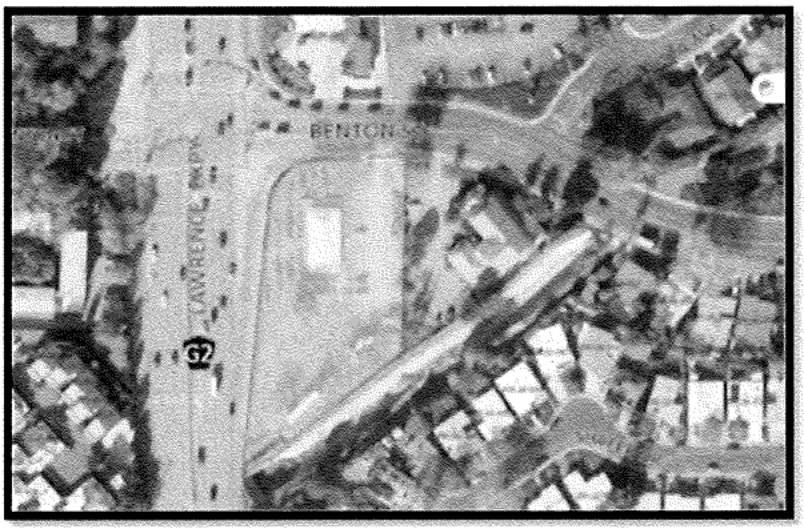
Name	Joshua Kim
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	

1. Why do we need 3rd homeless housing? (HH)
   → #1 Lawrence Expressway #-front of City hall.
2. How many County own land to Similar project.
3. How many homeless (Individual) in Santa clara.
4. The staffs & city, County leadership needs more research for Neighbor impact.

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Wrong location!
Listen to people.

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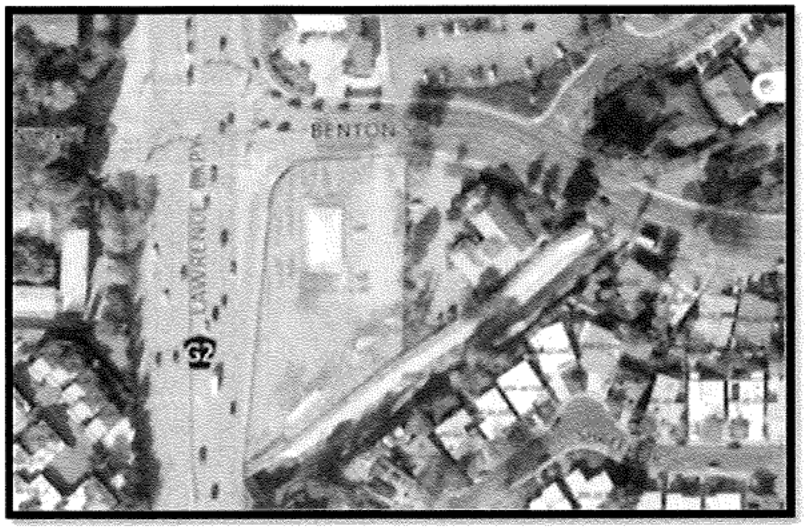
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Name Tcoran Lu	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad[redacted]	
Comment: Not the right location !	

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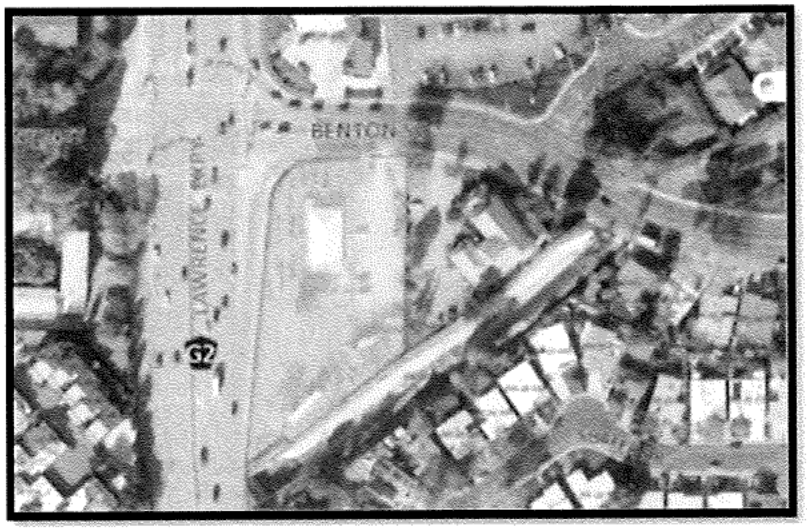
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Name Davy Wang	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad[redacted]	
Comment: No! No! No! please, no shelters in a neighborhood with so many schools. So unsafe for childrens. This project won't solve any problem, but only bring in more and more homeless from everywhere.	

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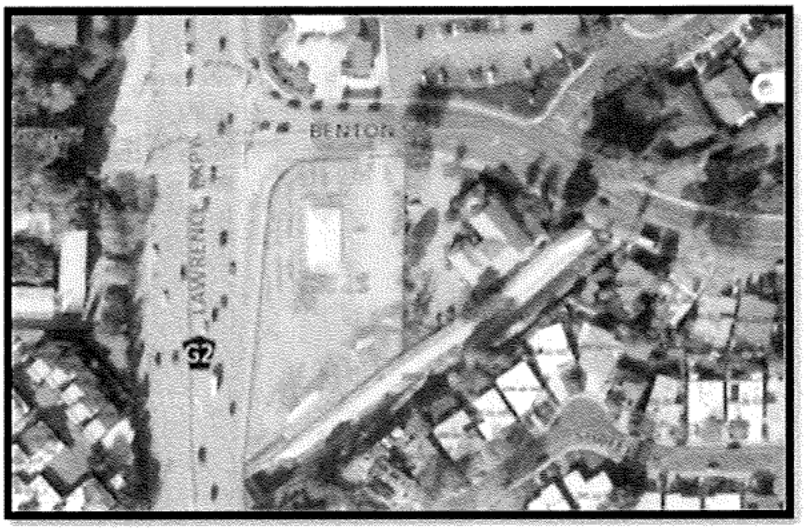
Name	PALLAVI VANKAYALAPATI
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]

Comment:

I OPPOSE TO THE LOW BARRIER SHELTER. IT IS ONLY GOING TO ATTRACT THE WRONG PEOPLE TO A FAMILY FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR HOOD

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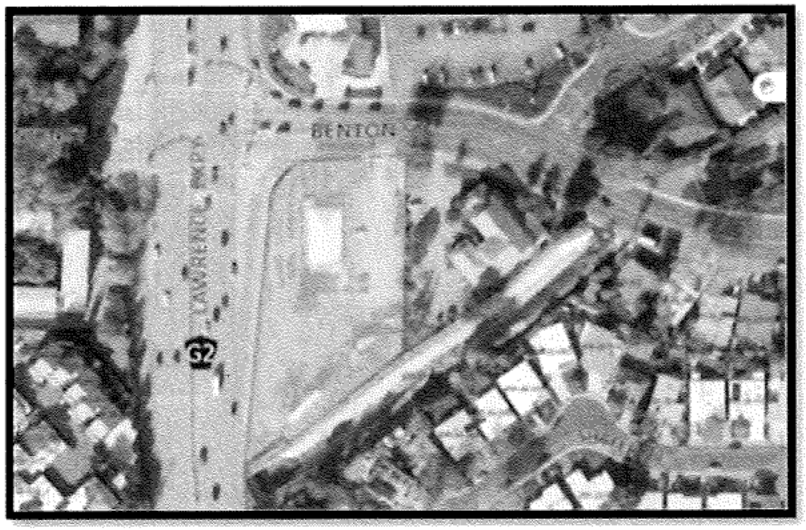
Name Tod Johnson	My preferred contact is phone, not email
Address [redacted]	
Email Add[redacted]	[redacted]
Comment: If the site is here, some residents will definitely be hit by cars. I speak from experience. Years ago I was driving north on Lawrence. A few cars in front of me a group of school age students, over 6, crossed Lawrence together. They were paying attention to each other and not traffic. One of the kids was struck by a car. Do some thing will happen to mentally ill residents. Mentally ill people are impatient and will not pay attention to the traffic, regardless	

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of Seagers

408-615-4745 Oregon

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what kinds of people

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Name	Huasha Zhao
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

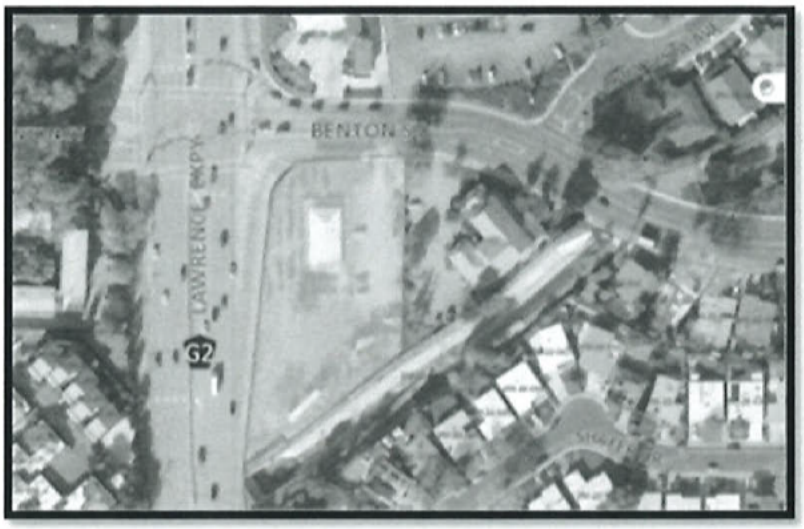
Comment:

I strongly oppose the site as an emergency ~~house~~ shelter with low-barrier to no-requirement. Shelter like this should be built in industrial area, NOT so close to schools and kids.

of known people without behavior and good record. NOT criminals, sex offenders, drug addicts

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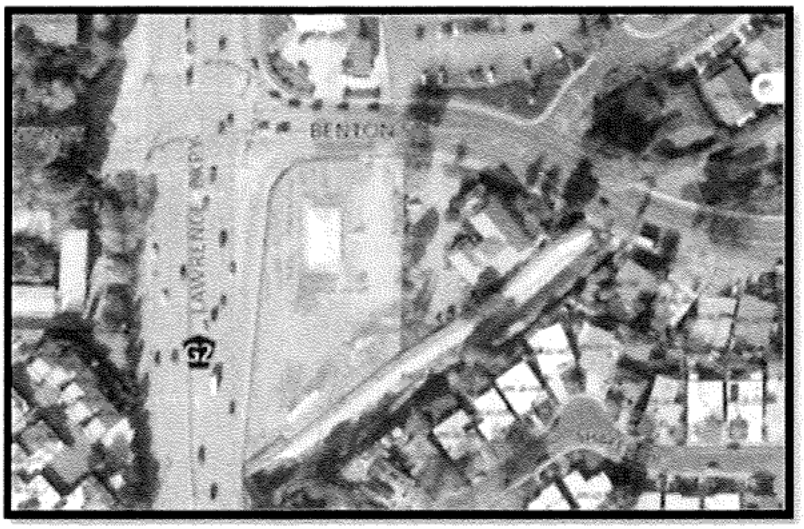
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Name	Alex Wang	Blair Yuen
Address	[redacted]	
Email Address		
Comment:	This proposal disregards the safety of the homeless, seeing the location are a high speed traffic crossing, and the safety of the local residents for making the shelter available. I am strongly opposed to this proposal and encourage the city and the county to look for better solutions for homelessness, instead of increasing it by building more shelters.	

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Name Cindy Zheng	
Address [redacted]	
Email Address	
Comment: I oppose this proposal because. ① too close to schools and residential homes ② no - screening ③ no plan for operation ④ great safety concerns.	

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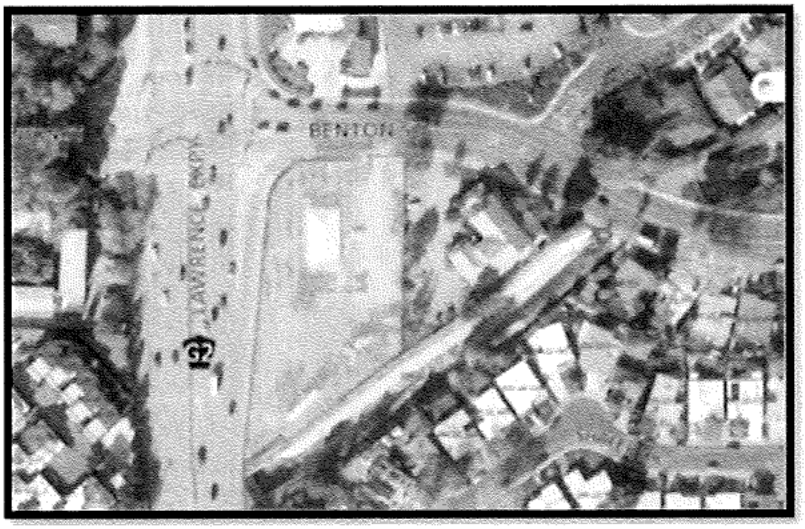
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Name	Le Hui
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I strongly say No to this project. ① Evaluate alternative sites. For example, the piece of vacant land next to the police station of the city of Santa Clara. With solar panel removed or relocated, the land is slightly smaller than the Benton & Lawrence site. It can be a good candidate. ② ~~Not~~ emergency shelters can't be located in residential area. This violates City Codes of Santa Clara.

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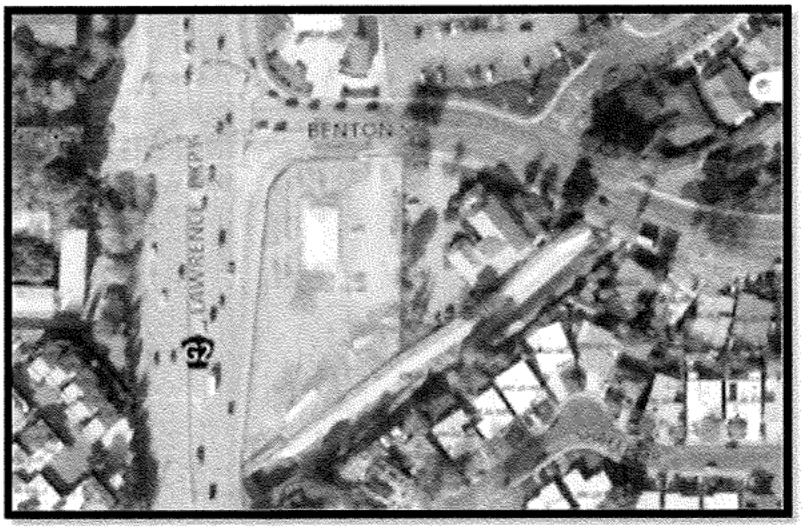
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Name Yang Jiao	
Address [redacted]	
Email Add [redacted]	
Comment: I strongly against this proposed project. This is a resitential area. Many schools, parks and houses nearby. Building a homeless shelter, especially a low-entry one would defenitely brings risk and potential criminal to all residents, childen and elders. Also, this site is just next to Lawrence Express, which always has high speed cars, It's dangerous for homeless people with physical or mental issues as well.	

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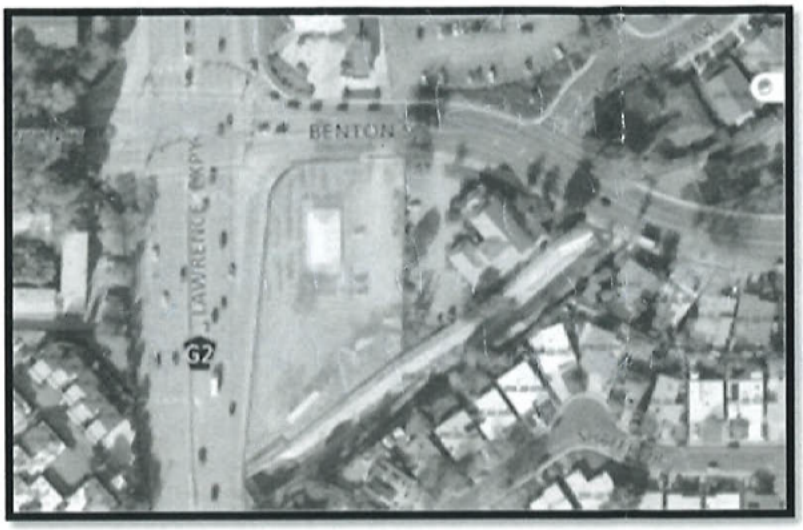
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Name Jinkar	
Address [redacted]	
Email Add	
Comment:	

* My children walk to park, Count & school, they are scared with the idea someone with mental health issues or criminal background can run into them accidently.
* There are elementary schools, high school day cares in under 1 mile distance, what about their safety?
* we moved here for safety and bring up our children, if the city is no longer safe we will move out.

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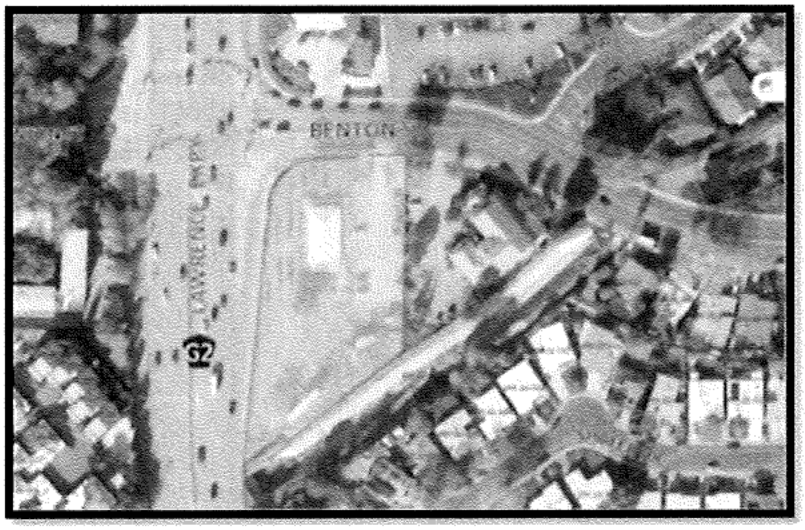
Name Deborah Dempsey	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad	
Comment:	

① Criteria for qualifying for "housing" be disclosed to neighborhood
② Assurance to the neighborhood that consequences will be strictly enforced
③ Assurance that police and firefighters are allowed to enforce laws and procedures for protecting the neighborhood, especially the children and permitted
④ Absolutely no drug abuse be tolerated and that a separate facility be provided to the homeless that is away from the residential neighborhood

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LifeMoves Contact: Marie Jackson mjackson@lifemoves.org

(5) Zoning – Since site in question is zoned as "low density" and is being changed for this project then use an "industrial zoned" site for this project That is not in a residential area near schools and playgrounds.

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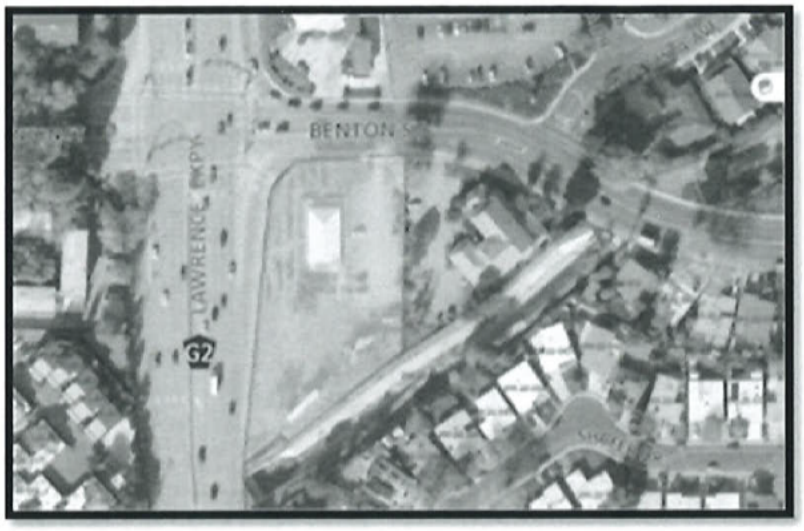
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Name	Gruan Qiao
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	Protest for this shelter. Protest for building useless shelters in this area. 1) It is not transparent for this project. Local residents are NOT notified. 2) I ~~am~~ have very big ~~con~~ concern about my safety in daily life. with more and more shelters in my living area. 3) It is also a big risk for childen living here. 4) This shelter does NOT solve real issues. but making it worse. Since homeless ppl do NOT want to move in. 5) Instead of shelter plan, I suggest to give money to people who take homeless in. I am sure it costs less and has bigger impact !

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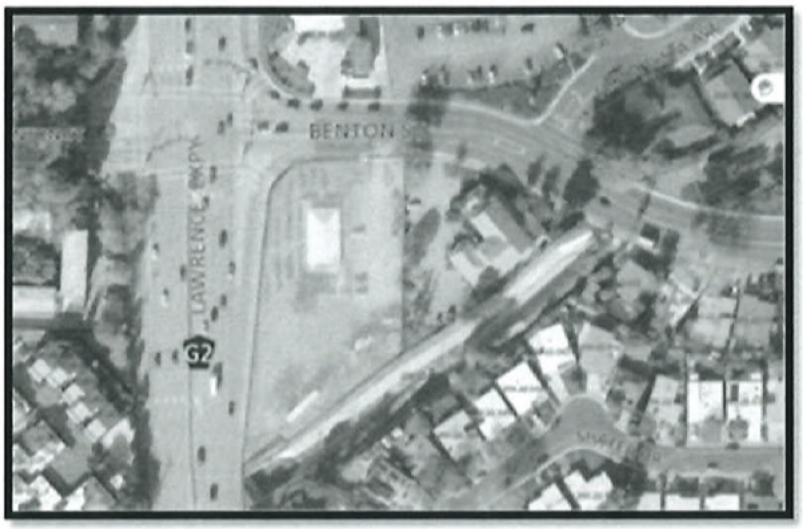
Name Chen Ge	
Address [redacted]	
Email Addres [redacted]	
Comment:	

I am strongly ~~agai~~ against this project!

I am concerned about the location.

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Name	Yuxuan Xie
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

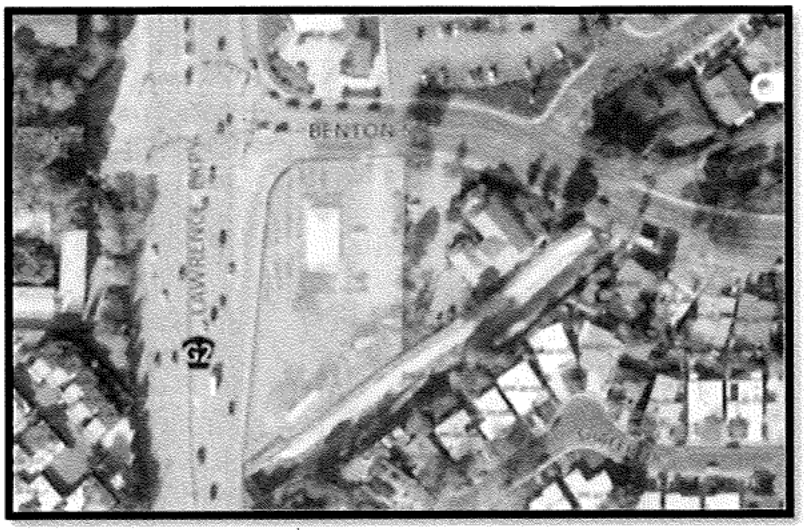
Comment:

Other shelters are not full. And even homeless people don't want to go to shelters.

We will leave the city, if it's insisted.

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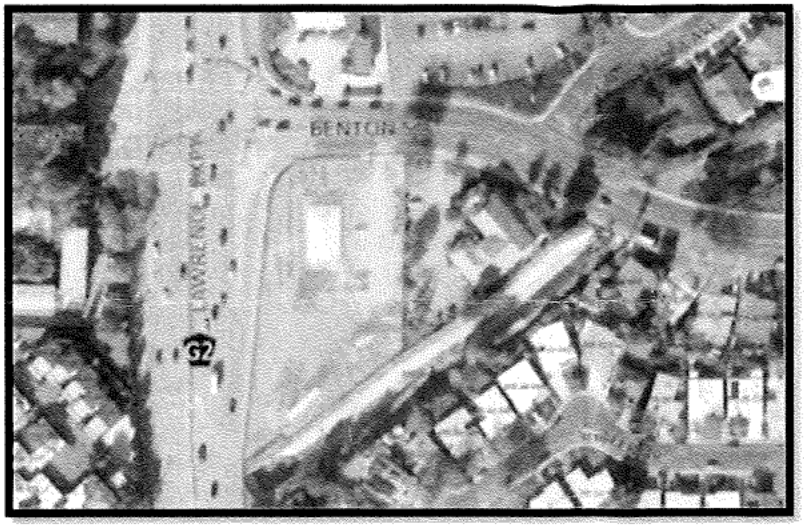
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Name	CHANDRASEKHAR MADDIPATLA
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	BE HONEST. BE TRANSPARENT. DO IT RIGHT BY PEOPLE. DO NOT RUIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIVING. GIVE PEOPLE MORE THAN 60 SECONDS TO TALK.

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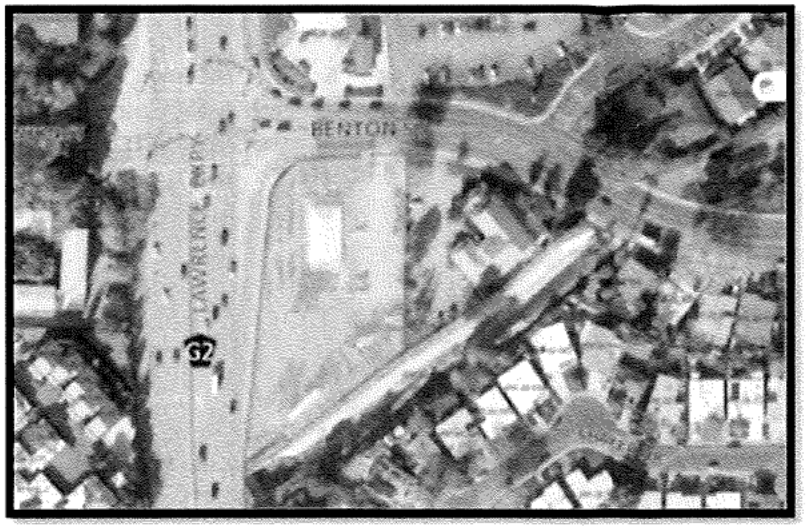
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Name	TA CHUNG LEE
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	Oppose to build 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site. Please find another site to build these units.

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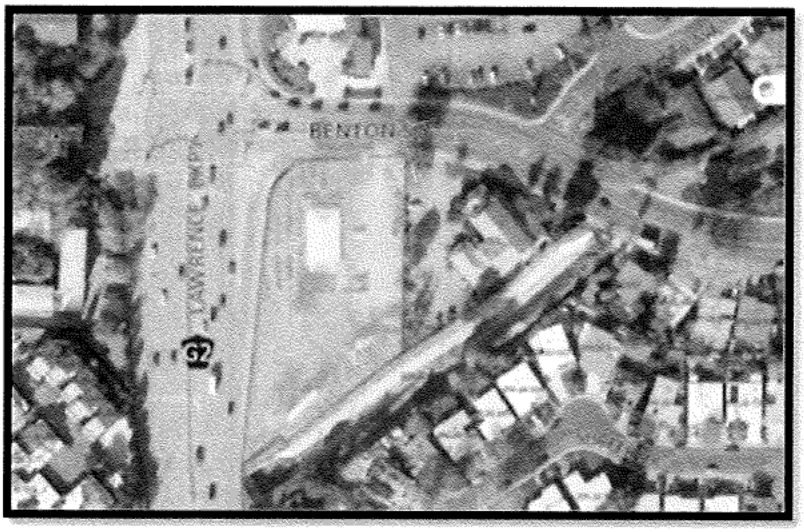
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Name	Maoting Sun
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment: Wrong location to build emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site!	

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Name Tie Feng	2.7
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad [redacted]	

Comment: I have strong concern on public safety, traffic, and other environmel impact on the neighborhood.

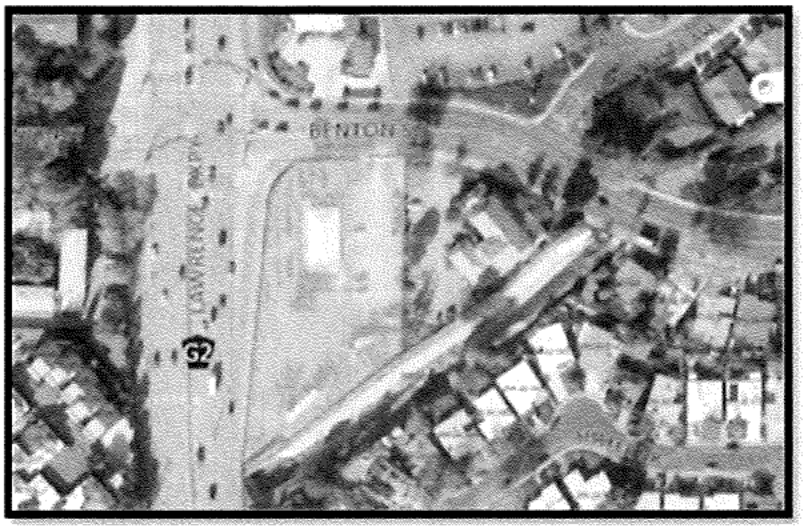
I oppose this ~~project~~ interim housing on the site of Lawrence Exp. & Benton

Question: Does the public have opportunity to comment on the Supportive Housing's recommendation before it is submitted to City Council and County Board of Supervisors?

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Do we have opportunity to comment on Support Housing's recommendation before submitting to City Council & County Board of Supervisors?

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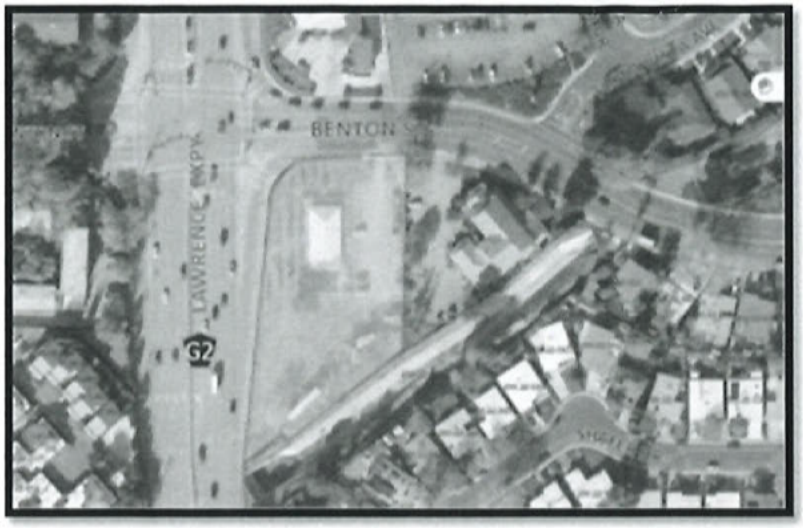
Name CHUZAI HUNG YZAING	
Address [redacted]	
Email Add [redacted]	

Comment:

I don't support this homeless shelter.
We why the homeless shelter for the homeless shelter with crimal & drug history so close to residential zone where have 5 elementary schools and residential housing. As a matter of fact, it is too dangous for the people & children living close to the shelter.

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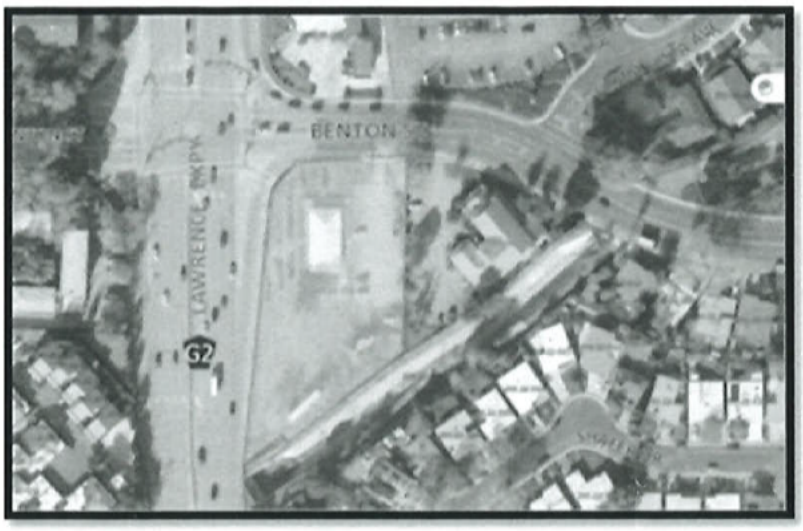
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Name	Zihao Ji
Address	[redacted]
Email Ad	[redacted]
Comment:	Not in a residential area! Help them with what they really want! Show opinions from homelessness!

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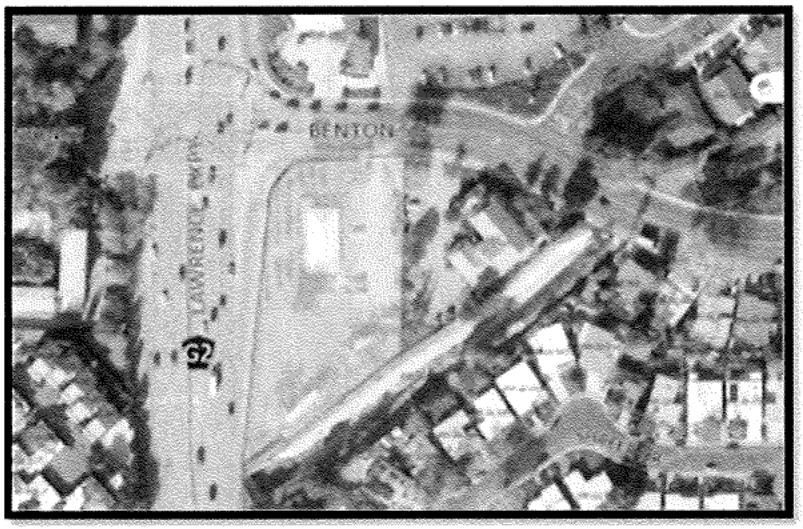
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Name	Nanxi Li
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment: ~~The most~~ I say No. the safety concern is not being addressed No data on school the presentation is ~~about~~ not convincing	

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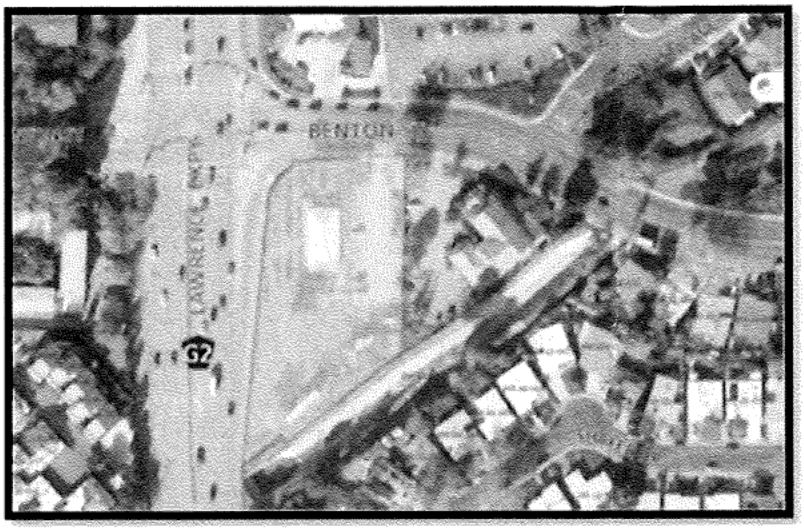
Name	LAN LUO
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

I strongly against this proposal to build a low bar shelter in the area where lots of schools and residentials are in. As this shelter will allow people who have mental issue / crime history, I'm very concern about the safety ~~for~~ especially for kids and seniors. Also, Lawrence Expy & Benton st are with busy traffic (high speed), it's also very unsafe for people ~~with~~ to live ~~there~~. there.

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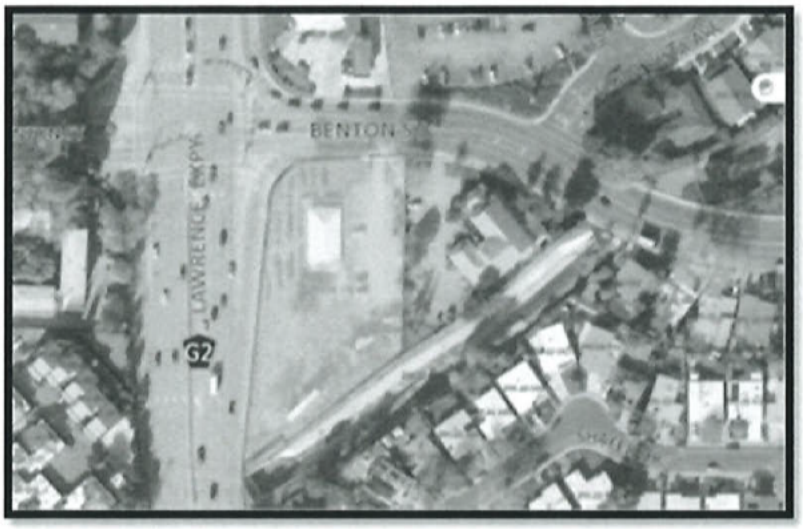
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Name	Kathy Almazol
Address	[redacted]
Email Add	
Comment:	I am in favor of this project. I have lived in this neighborhood for 46 years. I believe the community could make this work successful. My fear is there is no sense of "community" among this group. Kathy Almazol

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Name AUNCHALEE BYRD	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad[redacted]	
Comment: NO NO NO SHELTER	

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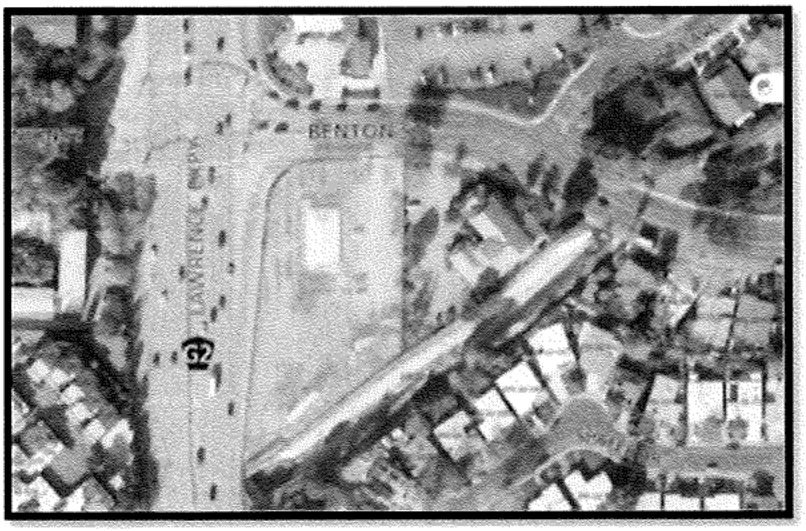
Name	Fei Han
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]

Comment:

No Homeless ~~sel~~ shelter @ ~~Benton~~. Wrong Location!
① Waste of tax payer's money. ② Not fair to the neighborhood!
③ ~~A~~ They already has another shelter (Bella Vista) nearby. Not fair.!
④ Why not consider Rose Garden area? ~~Does~~ Is that because powerful people (e.g. Susan) lives there? ~~??~~ ⑤ All county supervisor's neighborhood should have a ~~sh~~low-barrier shelter first before goes into other mid-class neighborhood.

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EMAIL US:
City Contact: Adam Marcus amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
County Contact: Consuelo Hernandez Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org
LifeMoves Contact: Marie Jackson mjackson@lifemoves.org

Community Meeting No.2 – Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Lawrence Expressway & Benton
Comment Card



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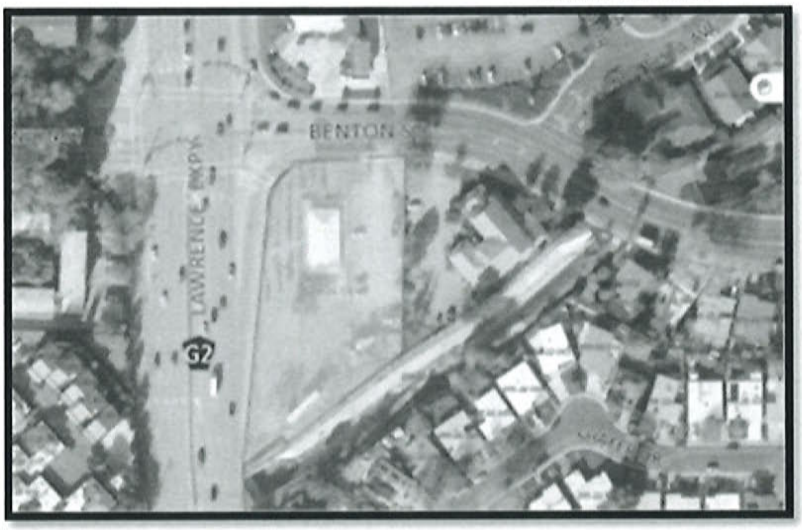
LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	RONG SHAO
Address	[redacted]
Email Addr	
Comment:	Strongly say "NO". Just 5 minutes walking to my house. I have seniors living in the house, I have teenagers living in the house. I want my house be a safe place. I like my neighborhood. Don't Destroy it!!! You Spent my money! You need to listen to my voice!

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NO!!!!!!
NO!!!!!!
NO!!!!!!

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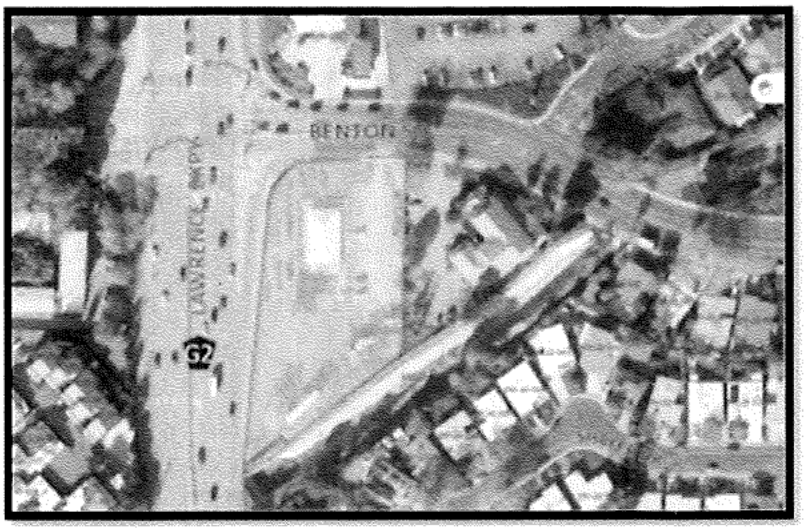
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Name	
Address	
Email Address	
Comment: Recall Ellenberg!	

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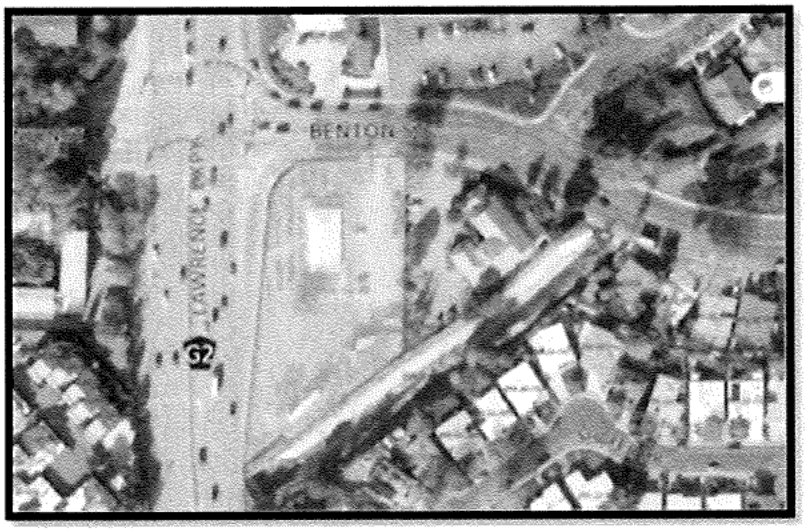
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Name	Weiyi Lin
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	No to this shelter Not this location We need data, not impression BIASED.

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Name	
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

I was just accosted on President's Day right in front of my home. I strongly oppose to this project location.

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Name	Xufei wang
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

We want a safer place & community. I continuously heard of car broke-ins from my friends & neighbors. until my home was attempted to break in by people we don't know (I have police case as provement), I really worried about and re-think about how to make our community a more safe place to live and to grow.

I strongly disagree with the proposal to set up another homeless shelter in our community!

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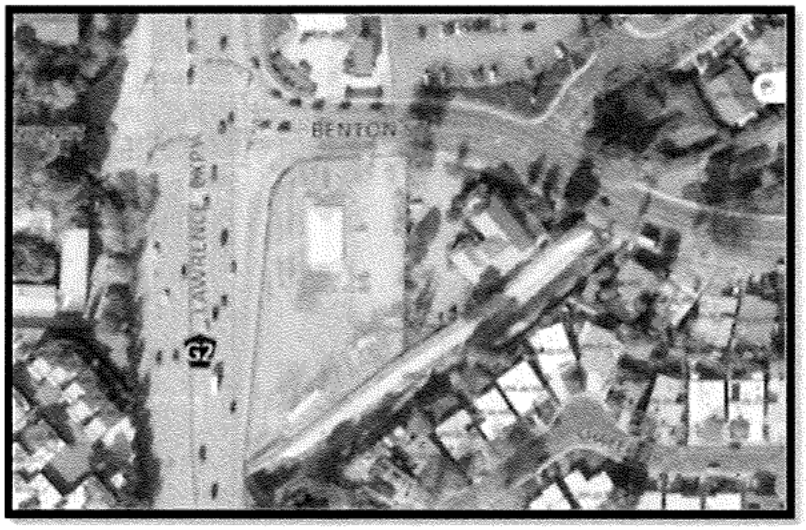
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Name	YULIN HUANG
Address	[redacted]
Email Addres	
Comment:	I strongly oppose to building a homeless shelter in this Lawrence Expressway & Benton. Santa Clara City cannot endlessly build new homeless shelter to accommodate homeless from other states wasting tax payer's money. Bella Vista shelter already has a lot of safety issues like prostitutes, robbery, seriously deteriorating this neighborhood. Goverment officials should accomdate the homeless at their houses not using the public land wasting the residents' tax paid. This land should be for teachers, firefighters who are so important to the society. Residents will definitely vote down out for the city officials who support this homeless shelter.

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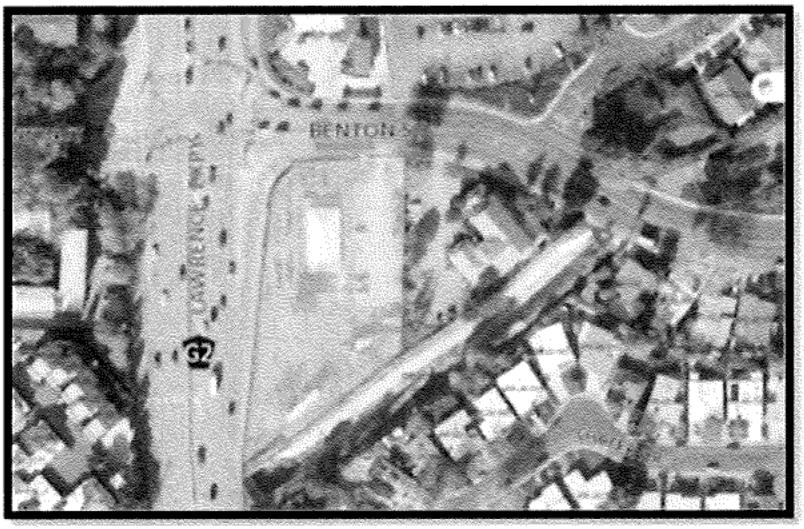
Name	Xiangfei Zhou
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]

Comment: I object this proposal. Terrible location choice with 7+ schools in walking distance, and not convenient for those in need of help.

The process is also not ~~helpful~~ transparent. The officials who attended hearings cannot answer and respond to our questions and concerns.

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Name	Yiran Yan
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

I object to this program.
This site is small and not close to transit.
And this site is close to schools and parks.

And the process of this program is opaque.
County also has other lands bigger.
I'm against this progam.

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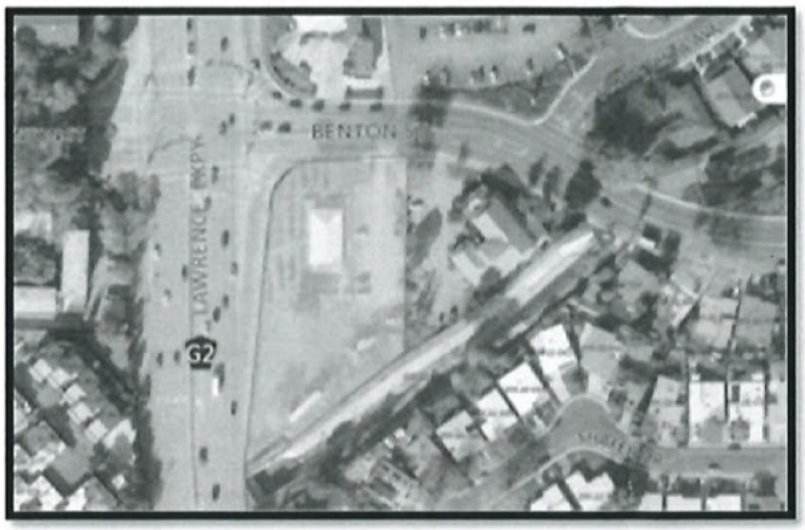
Name	Anjali Surapaneni
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

NO. Please consider our kids safety. Enough is enough. City is not helping us curb crime and now adding this additional burden of "Low barrier" shelter to house criminals, drug addicts & people ~~with~~ ~~[illegible]~~ who should NOT be around kids & elementary schools. This is not safe even for our homeless neighbours. The only people this helps is corrupt officials & their patrons - builders

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Name	Aashi Verma
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment: I do not believe this shelter would be benificial to the neighboorhood. It creates many safety issues for many people that have been living here for years. It is unsafe for kids that attend the many schools in this area. It would also cause more fear and tension with the residents of this area as we have already delt with a lot of vandalism and robberies in houses.	

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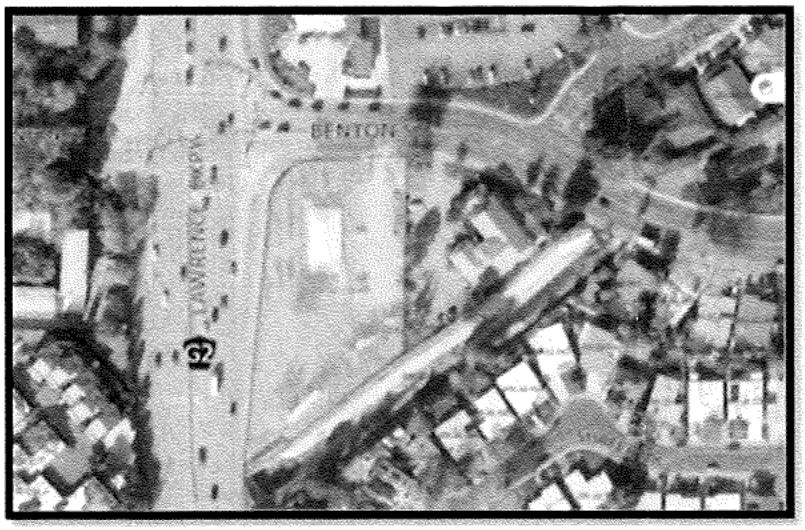
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Name	Ashish Verma
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I am extremely concerned about the safety and security of my family and neighbours with such a low barrier & entry transient shelter for homeless so close to schools, parks & dense neighborhood. The location choice is horrible. We want to see the crime rates and service calls of such shelters in similar neighborhoods. We want a low cost/afforddable housing instead. Please say NO to this site

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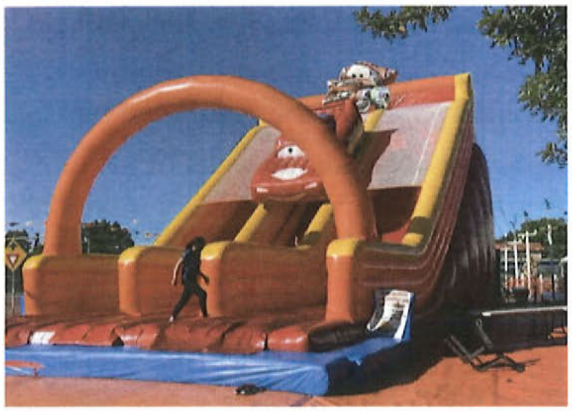
Name MAHENDRA CHAUDHARI	
Address [redacted]	
Email A[redacted]	
Comment: I'm not against the solution for ~~homeless~~ unfortunate homeless people. However, I'm strongly opposing proposed site. This particular location isn't suitable for temp homeless shelter. This location would have been nice to low income families. in my opinion. Most homeless people wondered on street needs serious attention to get them off the drug addiction.	

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In 2021, Santa Clara County pushed and built 2 homeless shelters near Lawrence & El Camino Real.

Today

< 0.5 mile away, they try to turn the pumpkin patch to **another low barrier** shelter with **120** container-style rooms for single homeless



SOON



What is a low barrier shelter? Who will live close to you, your kids & seniors? In the first community meeting on 2/13/2023, Santa Clara County officials confirmed:

"People with **criminal background** will be permitted to stay
57% having physical or **mental health issues**…
A lot of people **re-entering from jails** …
We do like to provide a low barrier entry"

Learn More

Sign Petition

Get Update

Join the gathering, 3/1, 5pm, Earl Carmichael Park
Join the 2nd hearing, 3/1, 6pm, Mission City Church
Join the final hearing, 3/9, 6pm, Mission City Church,
1290 Pomeroy Avenue, Santa Clara

Prepared & distributed by NoHomeKeySantaClaraSunnyvale@gmail.com

To Representatives of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

As a local resident, I understand that people experiencing homelessness is a big issue that our community needs to solve. However, I am very concerned about the HomeKey project "Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Shelter".

I oppose building another homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton location because

- ☑ Bella Vista, only 0.5 miles away, is already being converted into a facility for the homeless.
- ☑ The characteristics of the location & method of modular construction (stacked-up container-style tiny houses) are identical to White Oak Lane project, **rejected in 2021** by the City of Santa Clara based on safety and other serious concerns.
- ☑ Forfeit of a playground, seasonal pumpkin patch & Christmas tree shopping for kids at all ages.
- ☑ Shelter 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.
- ☑ The project lacks transparency and outreach efforts.
- ☐ Additional comments:

I urge you to engage with us and have more public hearings to discuss alternative location choices and answer public concerns. It is with that said that I request that you vote **NO** on this project: Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Service Enriched Shelter

Name (Print): Kautul Mehta Signature: Kautul

Address: [redacted] Sunnyvale CA 94087

Date: 03/01/2023

Name (Print): MANISH GARG Signature:

Address: [redacted], Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Date: 03/01/2023

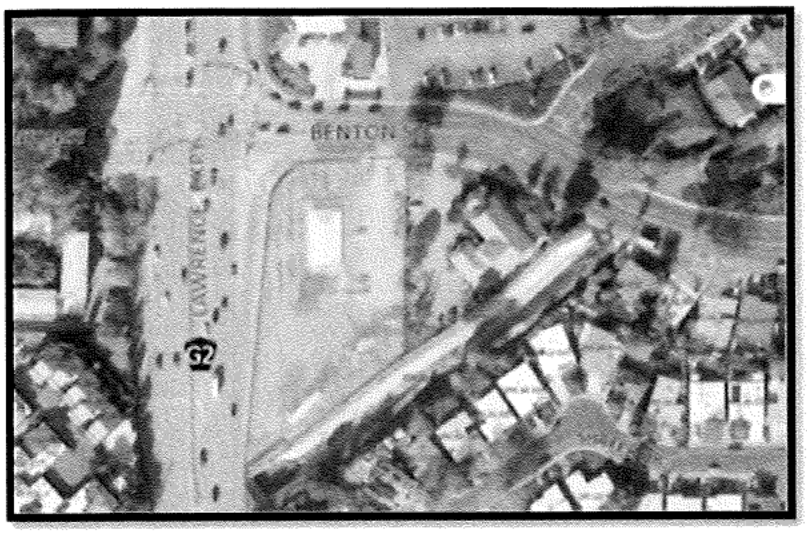
Name (Print): MAHENDRA CHAUDHARY Signature:

Address: [redacted] Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Date: 3/1/2023

(Please return to nohomekeysantaclarasunnyvale@gmail.com. Multiple signers can share the same petition. Use additional paper for more signers. Be sure to include name, address & date for each signer)

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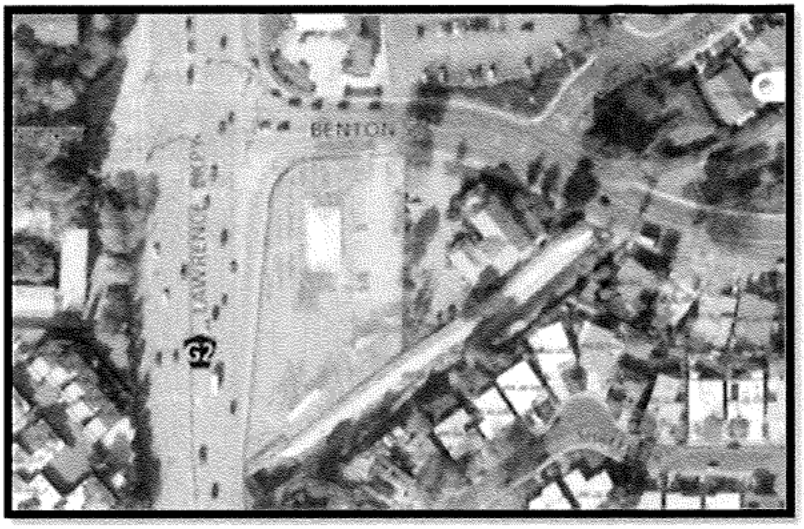
Name	Min Li
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

I strongly oppose the project. It's too close to the highway and there were multiple accidents happened before. It's not safe for the people living so close to the highway. Given the low barrier entrance to the shelter and it's so close to multiple schools, I deeply am worried about the safety of the kids. Again, I am strongly against the project.

VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE: https://osh.sccgov.org/project-homekey-scc/benton
EMAIL US:
City Contact: Adam Marcus amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
County Contact: Consuelo Hernandez Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org
LifeMoves Contact: Marie Jackson mjackson@lifemoves.org

Community Meeting No.2 – Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Lawrence Expressway & Benton
Comment Card



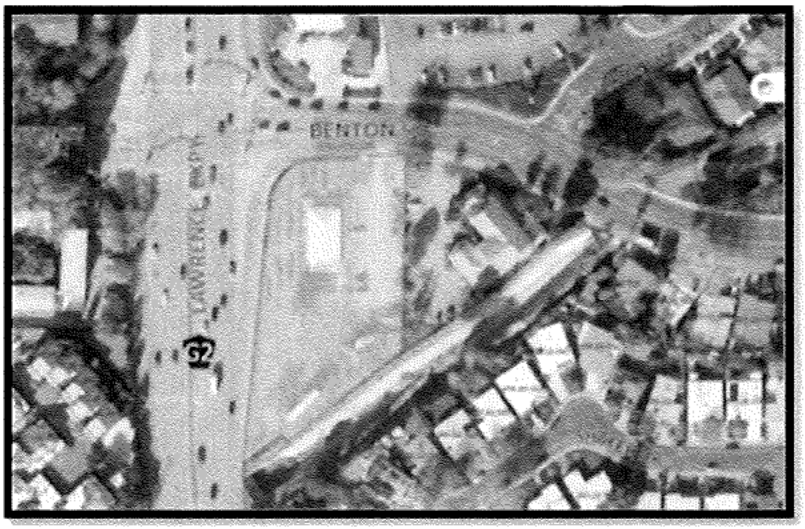
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LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	Kautul Mehta
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment: We do NOT support this project. - Location is near another homeless facility - Location is near schools, parks, family residences - Low entry barrier is a safety risk. - Mental health patients need a much higher level of care.	

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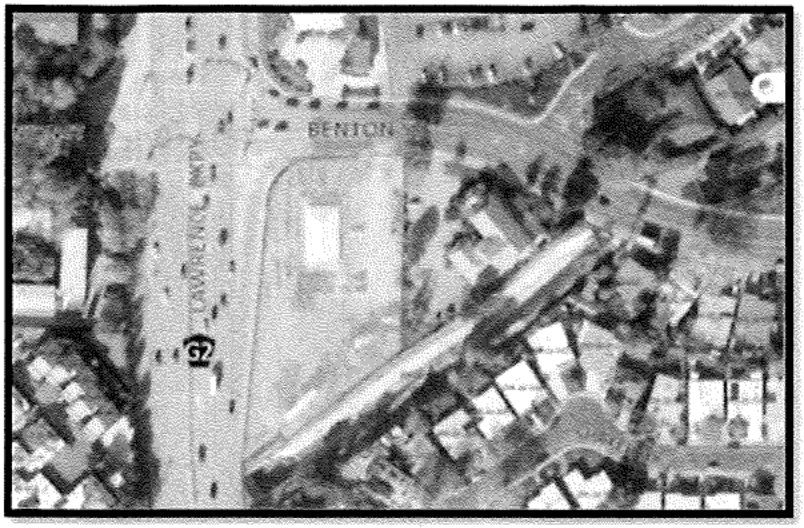
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Name Vishal Tanna	Darshana Parmar
Address [redacted]	
Email A [redacted]	
Comment: I & my family vote a BIG NO for shelter at proposed location 1. Busy & noisy intersection! Not safe for homeless people with disabilities, under influence & mental illness. Cars run at 50-70 miles on Lawrence & take speedy exit on Benton. 2. Too noisy for people with mental illness. It can make condition worse 3. No nearby access to public transport for physically & mentally disabled people	

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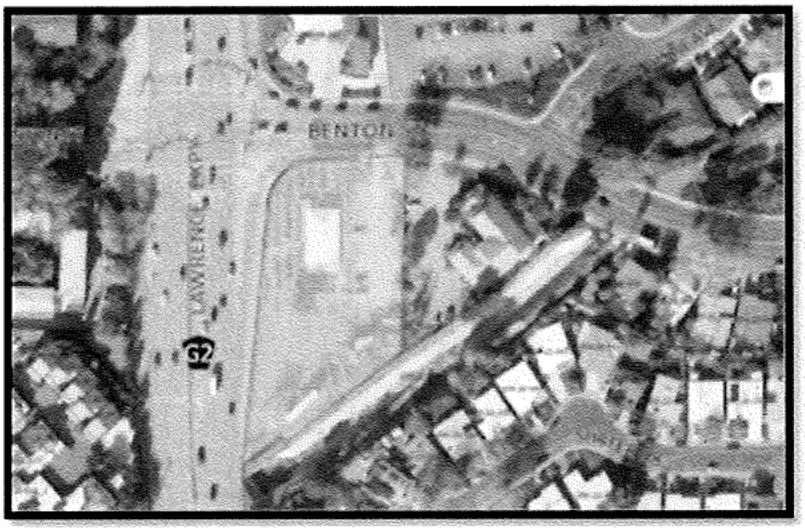
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Name	Meeti Shah
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	

→ Sell that land
Get a new location to support this cause, we will help raise money.
→ oppose location and barrier to entry

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Name	Larry Wang
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	

Strongly oppose!
I know my oppose is totally useless,
The location is the worst for shelters!
Please select somewhere else!

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The County Is Turning Lawrence & Benton into *Another* Homeless Shelter

All the huge jump-houses enjoyed by kids around Halloween and a place where people buy Christmas trees from at year end



SOON

An over-crowded (80 -120 units) homeless shelter built using container-style tiny houses, with no screening for residents



Barely 0.5 miles north, County is already building a homeless shelter at the previous **Bella Vista Inn site**. Do we need **two homeless shelters** in this area, where we have many daycares, schools, parks and residential homes? Do we run out of any other choices of locations?

What we can do NOW:

Sign the petition at the back of the flyer, scan & email it back to nohomekeysc@gmail.com or simply send a letter to this email to get future updates. Please feel free to download and print more copies by scanning the QR code here →

Speak up at the County Community Meetings:

- *February 13*, at 6:00pm via **Zoom** Joint at: https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/92117608467

  Or call in to US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 669 219 2599 , MeetingID: 92117608467
- *March 1st* at 6:00pm, **in person** at Mission City Church, 1290 Pomeroy Avenue
- *March 9th* at 6:00pm, **in person** at Mission City Church, 1290 Pomeroy Avenue

Share your concerns with County Supervisors

- Otto Lee at Supervisor.Lee@bos.sccgov.org or (408) 482-1550
- Susan Ellenberg at supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org or (408) 299-5040

Share your concerns with Santa Clara City Council: Kevin Park (408) 482-1550 and Karen Hardy (408) 615-2250

To the Representatives of the city of Santa Clara and the county of Santa Clara,

As a local resident, I understand that people experiencing homelessness is a big issue that our community needs to solve. However, I am very concerned about the Homekey project site proposed for Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway.

I oppose the proposed Homekey site due to the following reasons:

- ☐ Losing a community playground, seasonal Pumpkin Patch and Christmas tree shopping for kids at all ages.
- ☐ Potential safety risks to the high-density residential areas and to parks, schools and child playgrounds.
- ☐ The proposed location is not fit for individuals in need of shelter.
- ☐ The project lacks transparency and outreach efforts.
- ☐ Additional justifications or explanations regarding the aforementioned points:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

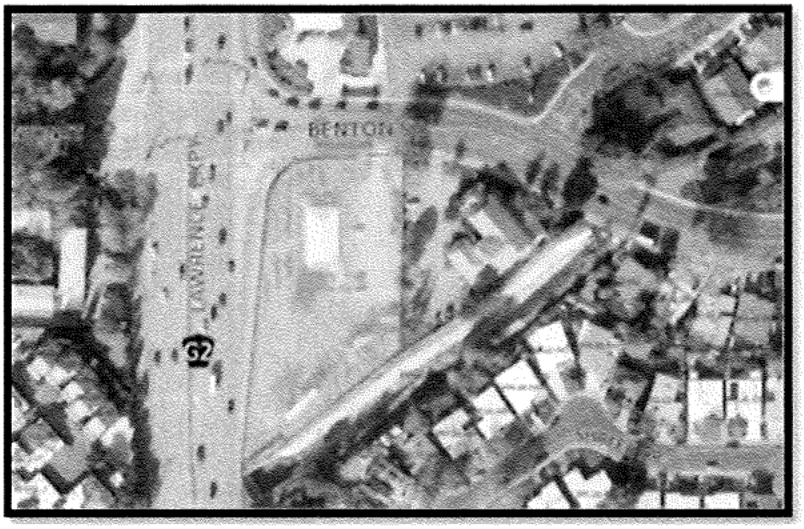
I urge you to engage with us and have more public hearings to discuss alternative location choices and answer public concerns.

It is with that said that I request you vote **NO** on this project:
Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Service Enriched Shelter

Please sign below. Multiple people can use the same petition, and **thank you for letting the neighbors know about this!!**

Name (Print)	**Signature**	**Address**

Community Meeting No.2 – Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Lawrence Expressway & Benton
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LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	Jiatong Chen
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]

Comment: I strongly oppose the location selection of the Benton & Lawrence site. This is so close to many schools, day care. The low barrier entry will be dangerous to kids playing in the park. The location is right at the cross-section with lots of traffic and noise which make the site even dangerous. When homeless with mental illness and drug issue go across street, it's highly likely they will run into car accident someday. The site is definitely problematic. I strongly OPPOSE the project!!!

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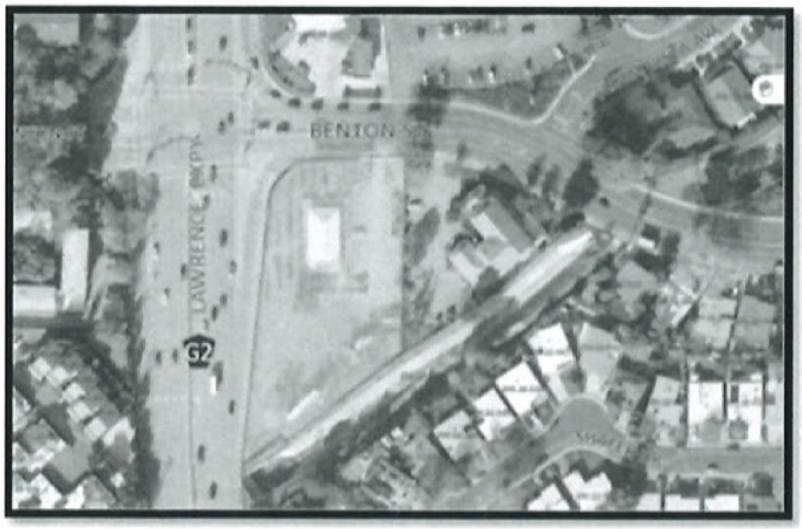
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Name	Yueming Sun
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I strongly oppose this interim housing. It has very low barrier. People entering it will have mental issue, drug addiction, jail record. It put our nice neighbourhood into danger. This location is close to lot schools, within 1 mile distance. Our children and senior are no longer safe in the community. You didn't care about the community. You choose a bad location. Don't build this interim housing in our community.

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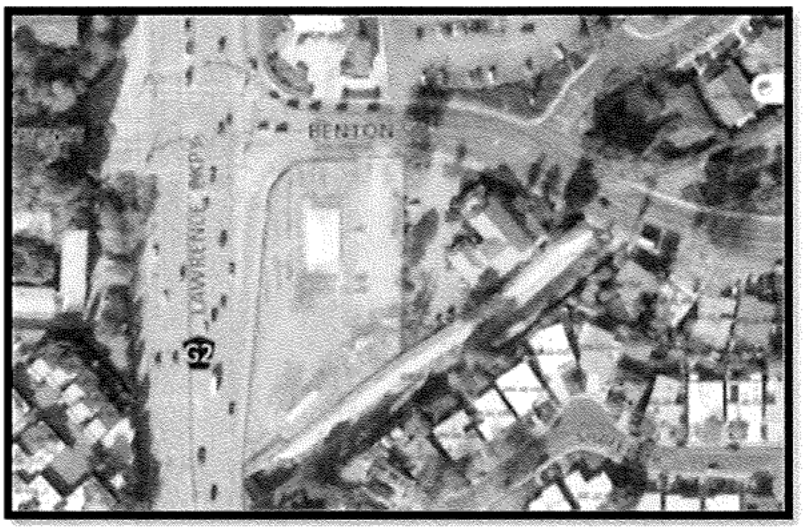
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Name	Xiaoxia Jin
Address	[redacted]
Email Add	
Comment:	This is an insane terrible idea to build a low barrier interim shelter in such a dense community with residentials, schools and daycares. How do we protect our family, our young kids by exposing the sextual offenders and drug addicts and jail reentering in the community ??? I oppose this project !!! I oppose the low barrier shelter idea, I oppose the location.

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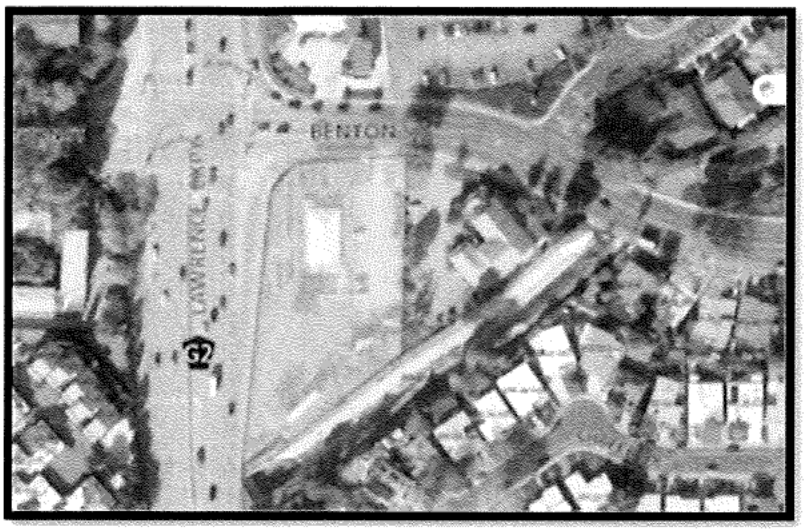
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Name	Weiyi Lin
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	No to Benton & Lawrence Shelter! Location not suited at all: 1. this is a residential area with ~~dense~~ high density population. 2 so many schools around, within walking distance. 3 noise & pollution from street & gas station & fire station

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COMMENT CARDS COVER PAGE

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Lawrence Expressway & Benton
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Name David Melius	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad[redacted]	
Comment: See attached	

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Questions/Problems with Lifemoves Lawrence and Benton Proposal

Property Values:

The study quoted in the slideshow from the 3/1 meeting appears to refer to low-income housing, not shelters for the unhoused.

Low-income housing is NOT the same as unhoused shelters. The unhoused have no stake in the neighborhood, while low-income housing renters do.

Here are some studies showing Property values:

7.1% to 17.1% decrease (NYC government report)

Assuming the same applies here:

Average home in this area of Santa Clara is about $1.3M (via Zillow.com)

$1.3M - 7.1% = $92.3K decrease per house within 1000 ft

$1.3M – 17.1% = $222.3K decrease per house with two shelters near (Bella Vista and new project)

https://ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/close-to-home-does-proximity-to-a-homeless-shelter-affect-residential-property-values-in-manhattan-2019.html

Homes on Shafer are within 1000 ft of the Bill Wilson property and the new shelter. Homes on Flora Vista appear to be within that 1000 ft radius of both the Bella Vista project and the new shelter.

Realtor.com quote:

"Homeless shelters can be unloved and unwanted misfits in residential areas. Even though there's no rule that homeless shelters are usually accompanied by higher rates of crime, shelters do certainly attract motley groups of people, necessitate emergency calls, and require more police in otherwise quiet, safe neighborhoods. Shelter locations, listed on homelessshelterdirectory.org, are often limited to less prime areas in the city where home values are about 13% less."

Realtor.com: https://www.realtor.com/news/trends/things-that-affect-your-property-value/

12.7% decrease in property value nationwide.

$1.3M – 12.7% = $165K decrease per house.

In Santa Clara, the County Tax Assessor's office is not a good source for actual house values when the market is so volatile.

Comparing to Casitas and Lifemoves Mountain View

Neither Casitas nor the Lifemoves Mountain View are the same as this proposed project.

They are single story. This is multistory. The neighbors who adjoin it would have no privacy in their back yards. My neighbor has a swimming pool with young children. They will lose their privacy.

Casitas is not in a residential area. It is adjacent to a San Jose Police station. There are only 25 units there.

Lifemoves Mountain View appears to be at least 1000 ft away from single family housing. It consists only of single story

They are in commercial areas. This is in an R1 zone.

Most zoning variances require approval from neighbors directly affected. This has not been done in this case. The existing projects are low density; this proposal is high density. If it's required that a neighbor give consent for zoning changes, why won't the City seek consent?

Client Questions

It is unclear as to what type of client is proposed, even after two meetings. Specifically, are these types of clients expected to live there for long periods:

- Mentally Ill persons
- Drug addicts
- Domestic violence victims
- Domestic violence abusers
- Registered Sex Offenders
- Parolees
- Children

If so, what percentage of the above should we expect to be clients? What percentage of the above are in Casitas/Mountain View Livemoves?

What limitations are there on clients? Specifically, are there restrictions on:

- Illegal drug use
- Marijuana use
- Alcohol use
- Tobacco use
- Noise
- Odors from dog kennels

What is the complaint process for issues with the facilities here and in Mountain View, if there is an issue with the surrounding neighbors?

Unclear Communication

Many statements have been made that are contradictory.

Is this project the responsibility of the City or the County? Both? What parts?

Who has the final word?

What is the schedule for the final word?

As soon as these meetings are done, is that the last time we can comment on the issue? Are there City or County meetings we can attend to express our opinions?

Signing up for the email updates has resulted in no emails being sent, not even meeting notifications. When will any updates be sent to the email list?

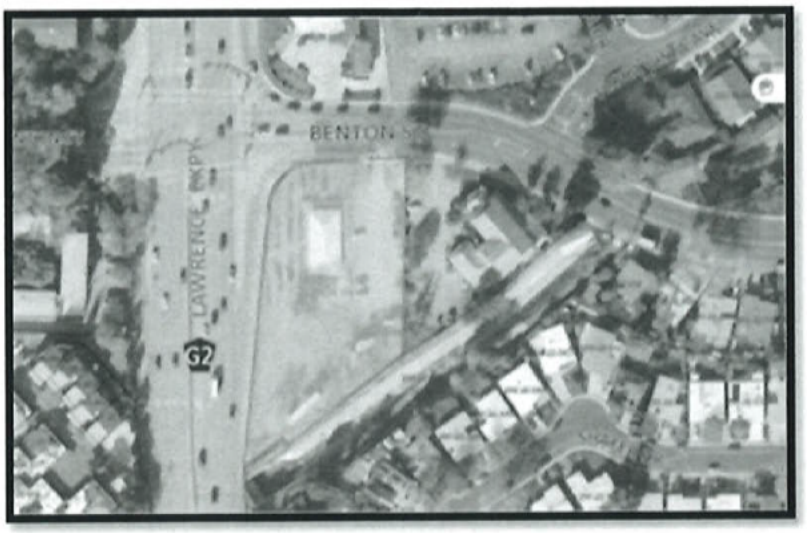
On the first Zoom meeting, it was said that all the questions on the chat would be answered. It has not happened. There is no log or record of those questions or their answers except for the video. When will they be made available?

On the website, the question about the how and when the decision about the target population will be made is not answered. Instead, there is some information about population, that is nonsresponsive.

The image of the view from Benton is identical to the view from Lawrence. Where is the actual view from Benton?

Community Meeting No. 3 – Thursday, March 9, 2023
Benton & Lawrence Expressway

Comment Cards submitted will be including in the Project's Community Engagement Report



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Name	Zhihao Ji
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	NO for this site Location is in high traffic area, and liquor store just opposite street. SO many schools nearby, I'm opposing this plan.

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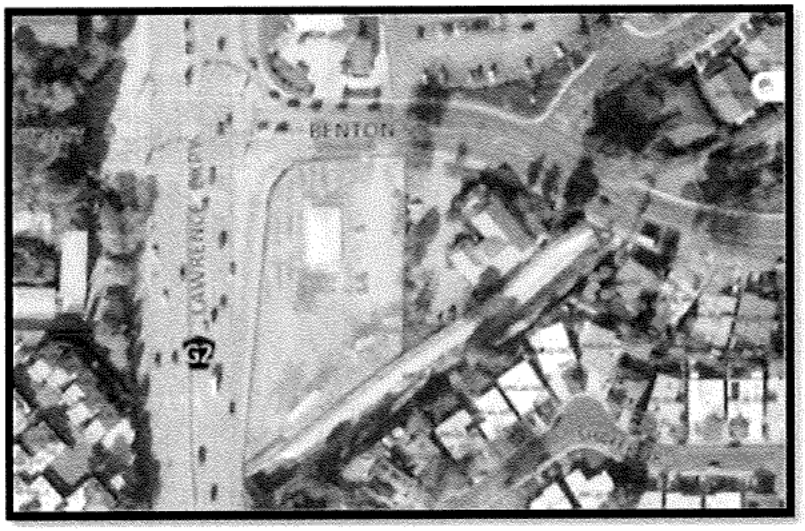
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Name Amith Deshpande	
Address [redacted]	
Email A[redacted]	
Comment: NO ~~to~~ this project. Bad location and not effective use of funds. I am opposed to ~~State~~ county staff and housing for police & elders. No to Shelter with low barriers.	

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Community Meeting No. 3 – Thursday, March 9, 2023
Benton & Lawrence Expressway

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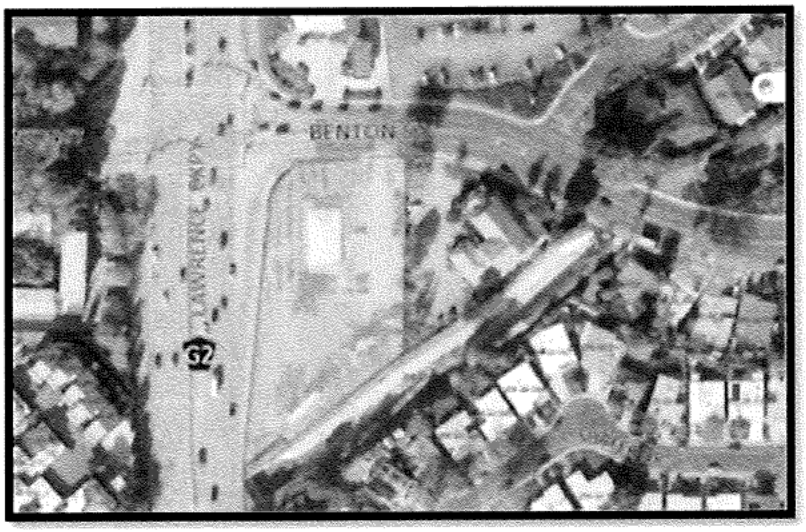
LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name Yu Sun	
Address [redacted]	
Email Addre [redacted]	
Comment: I oppose to the plan. Not the right location !!! – So close to expressway: not safe for homeless people !! – So close to schools / daycare. impact to young kids !!!	

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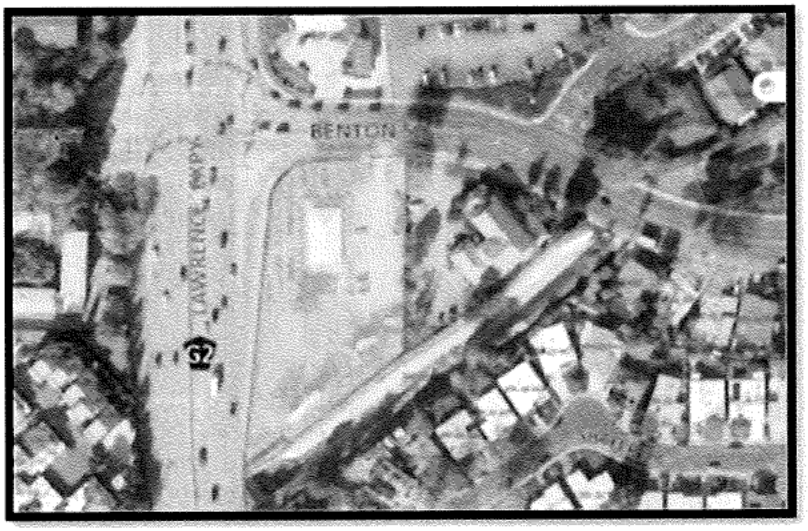
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Name Del Campo	
Addres[redacted]	
Email Address	
Comment: We do NOT want this To happen. It will be not Only trash, but rats, and unhealthy living. Danger. We have had people going around our home wondering. We don't want This homeless project	

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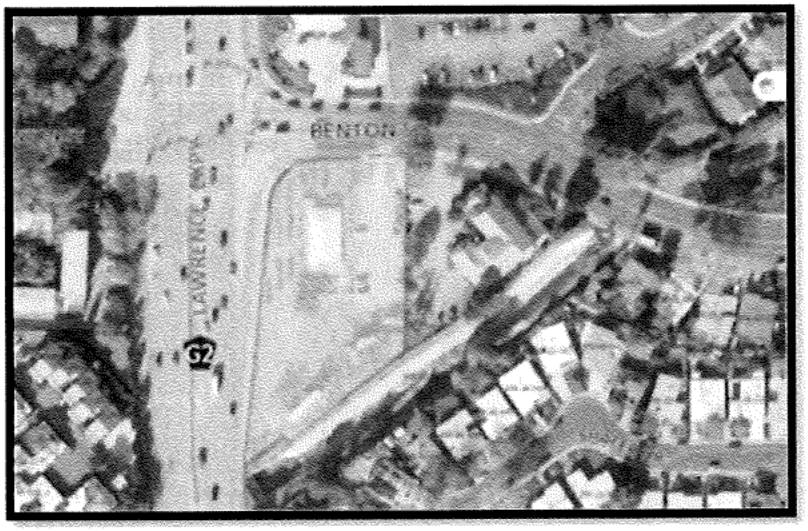
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Name	
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I am against the shelter at this location. The project should not be in this area. There are multiple schools and parks near by, please let our children be safe. Build the housing somewhere else, Not here.

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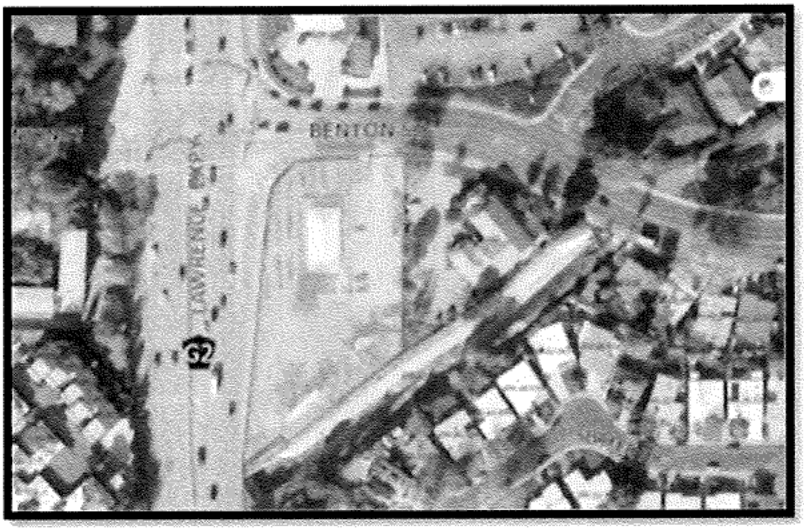
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Name CLAIRE SMYTH	
Address [redacted]	
Email Add [redacted]	
Comment: The one minute time limit is insufficient for people that will be impacted by this development. - IS- ONE MINUTE enough time WHEN it comes to the investment OF your property, apartment LEASE, and the safety of your family? - ULTIMATELY, it will be more than 1 minute to make the decision to relocate because you no longer feel comfortable in this environment, AND you KNOW your government doesn't care about you.	

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Name	Jianing Yu
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I urge county officials to stop this project, and urge city ~~Count~~ councils to vote no for this project. I feel disappointed and frustrated by how county officials ~~o~~ misled the audience. I suggest county to ~~h~~ choose a non-residential area.

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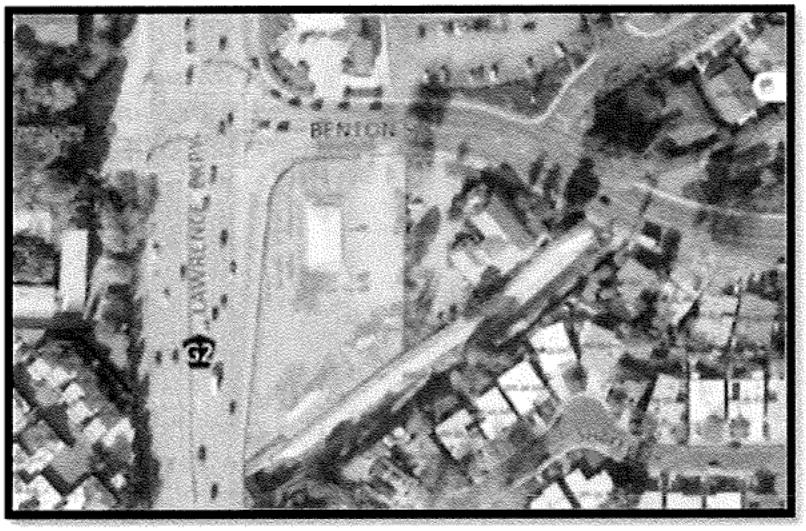
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Name Jenny Tung	
Address [redacted]	
Email Add	
Comment: No	

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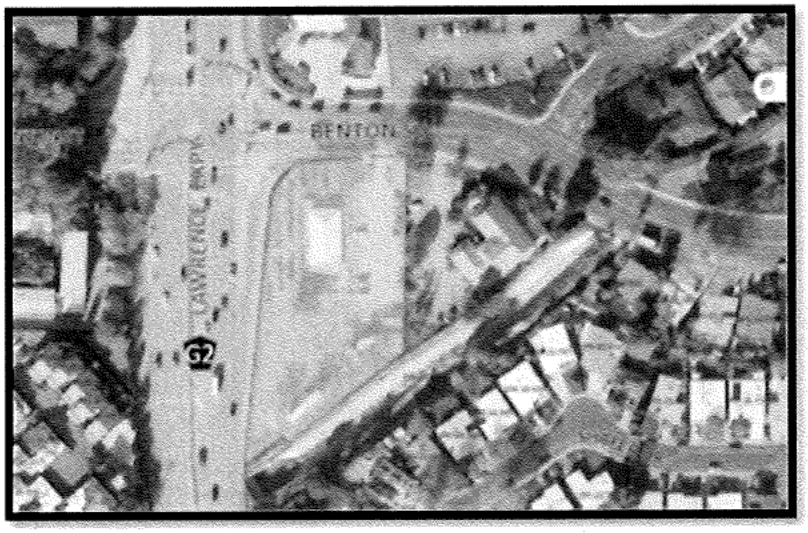
Name	YANOV VASSMAN / NATALIYA SARNAYA
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	NOT RIGHT LOCATION. NOT SUPPORT. !!!

1

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Name	Rong Shao
Address	[redacted]
Email Addres	[redacted]

Comment:

NO! NO! NO!
I strongly oppose this project! I live five minutes walking Distance of the shelter location! I feel so unsafe! NO!
Put all existing shelters full, and then build the shelter next to the police! We pay tax, we bought houses! We don't Agree! Listen to us! NO!

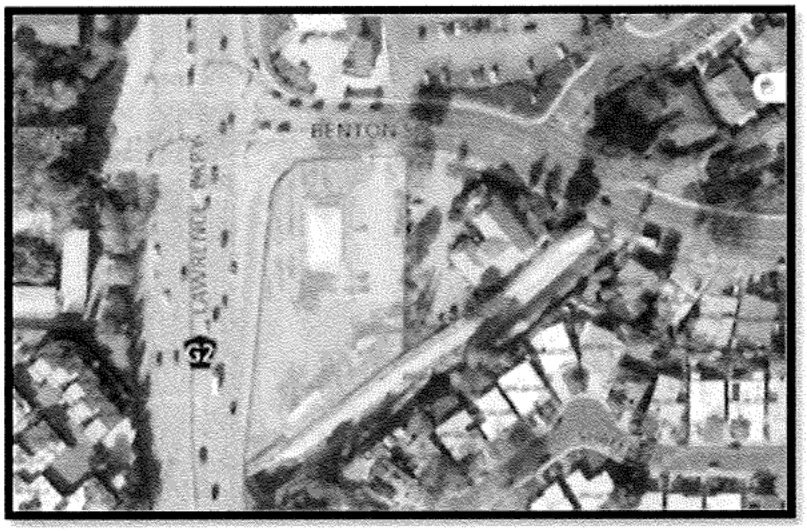
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NO! NO!

We are the residence! Our Voice, Our Safety, Our environment are the top priority! NO!

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Name Yang Liu	Yang Liu
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

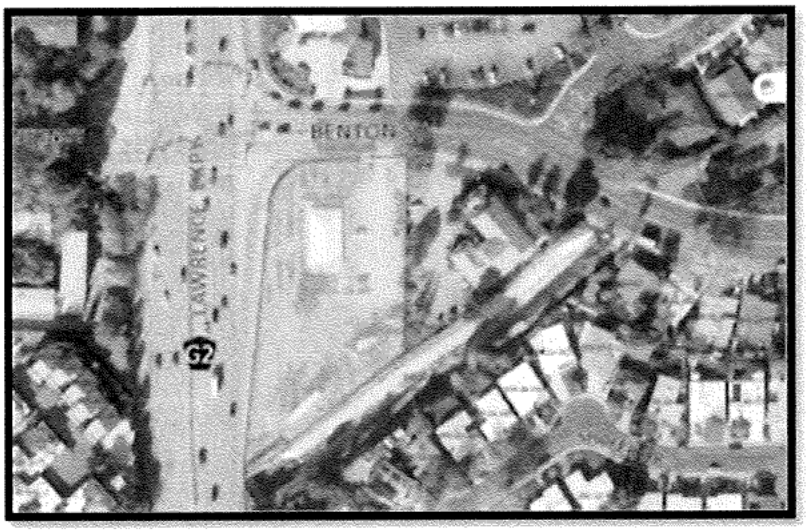
Comment:

I strongly oppose this project, and I'm so surprised at the lack of transparency of this project and feel like the city is trying to push this over us. I want more data, more discussion from the neighborhood before making a decision.

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Name	Davy Wang
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]

Comment:

I Oppose this project.

Reason: * 1. Location: should not be close to residented area. Should not be close to schools

2. Safety low barrier.
3. low-screen criteria.

(12) schools around!!!

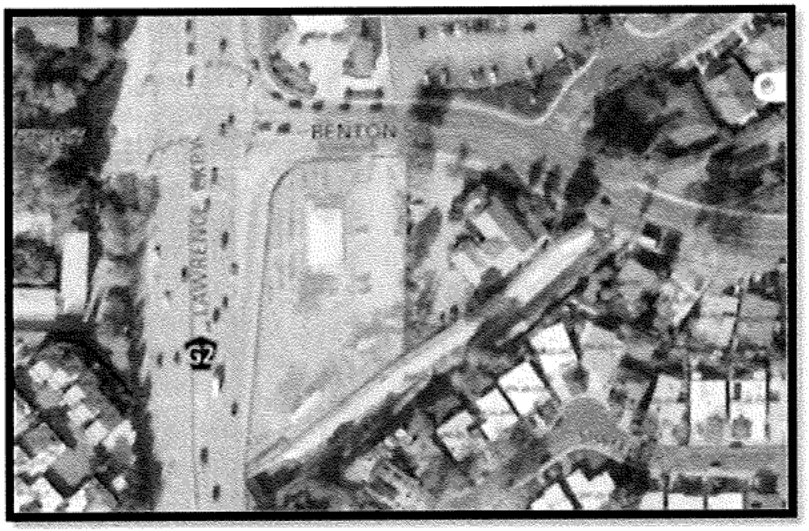
I think it is more reasonable to find a better place for these kind of projects.

* I felt cheated by the country for the Bella Vista project, and the fauted data used in this project

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Name	Ting Li
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]

Comment:

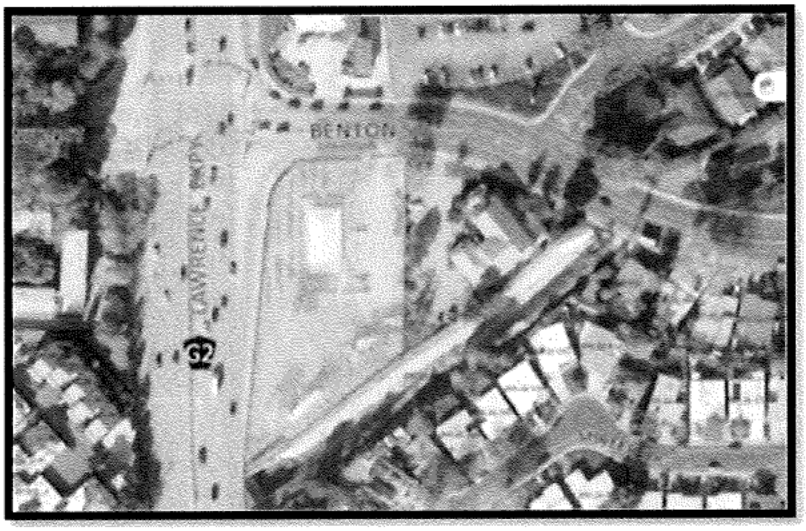
As a ~~p~~father of a toddler, I want to say NO to this location. It's too close to many schools. including elementary and some day cares. ~~They~~ Children are vunerable when facing mental illness peopel. They will learn from whatever they see, ~~s~~they may start drugs. crime and other unhealthy habits.

~~Pl~~Please address the issues before starting such projects in such child dense area.

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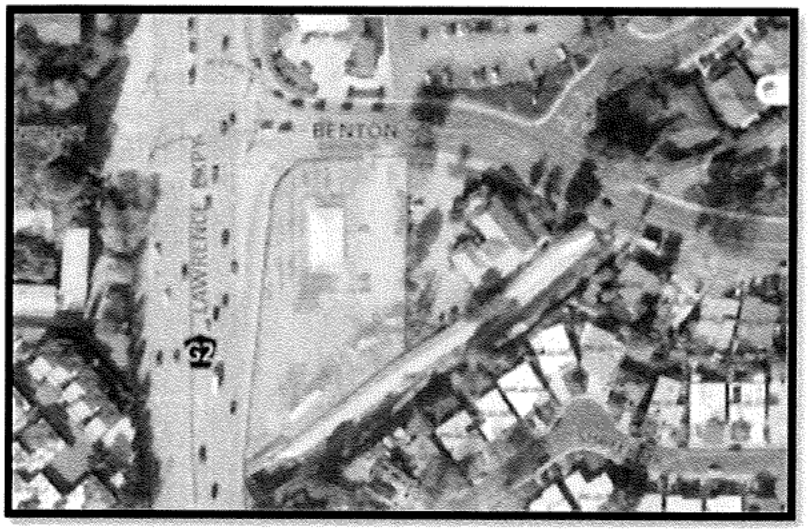
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Name	Zhen Hua
Address	[redacted]
Email Addre	
Comment:	I strongly oppose the address chosen for this interim housing. I love the bay area and have lived here for many years. I have a family and a lovely boy that is attending daycare and soon preschool. I feel sad about the unresponsible decision. My family, and a lot of others, will have to worry about children's safety. Someone claimed this is safe, ah, how come. Have you consider the mood of people's thought before making the decision?

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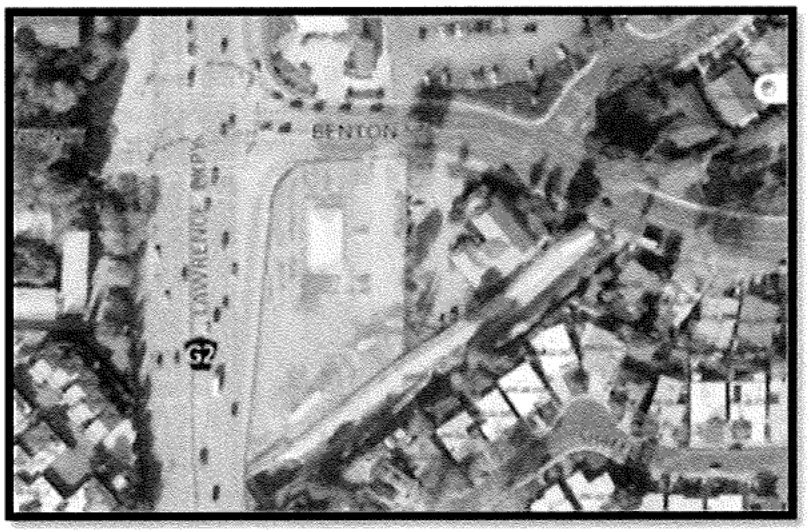
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Name	Kaong Hang Kao
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	No.

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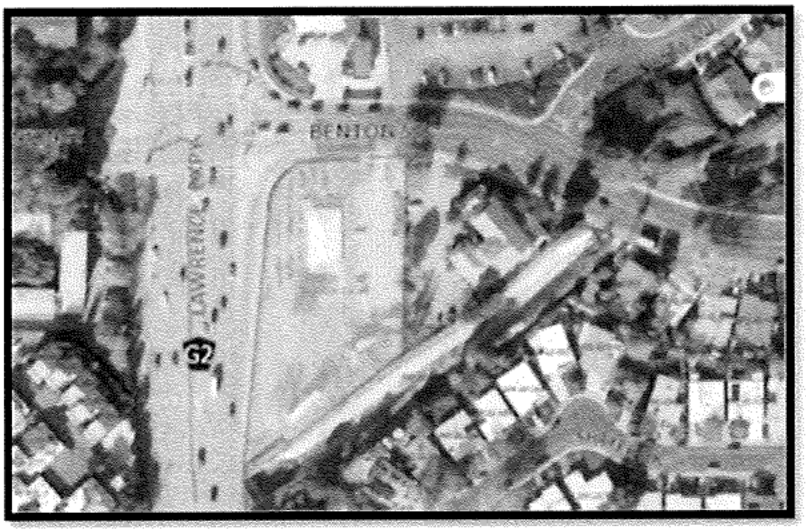
LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name Shu Yuan Wen	
Address [redacted]	
Email Addre [redacted]	
Comment: No.	

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Name	Felicia Han
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

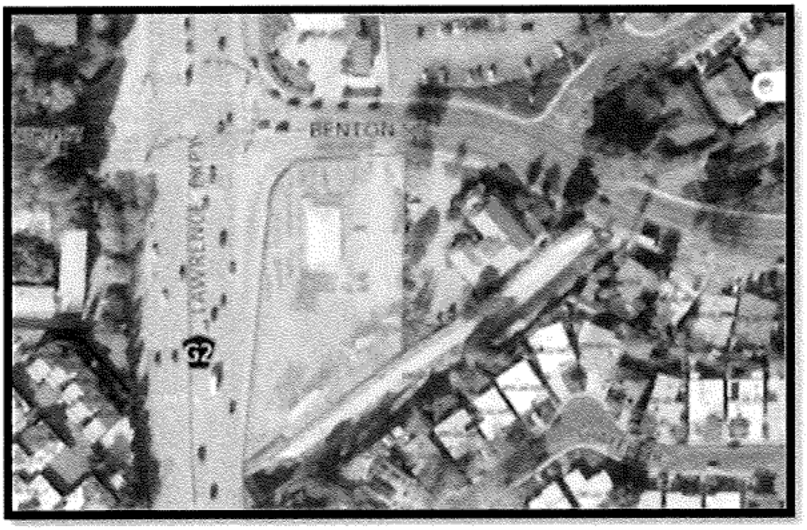
① Low barrier shelter should NOT built in residential area. it will significantly increase the crime rate of the neighborhood. We can not risk anyone in our community.

② It is very clear from all 3 community meetings, there are more people oppose this shelter than the supporters. The City ~~Coun~~ councils & county supervisors should represent the majority of the people and vote "No" to this project.

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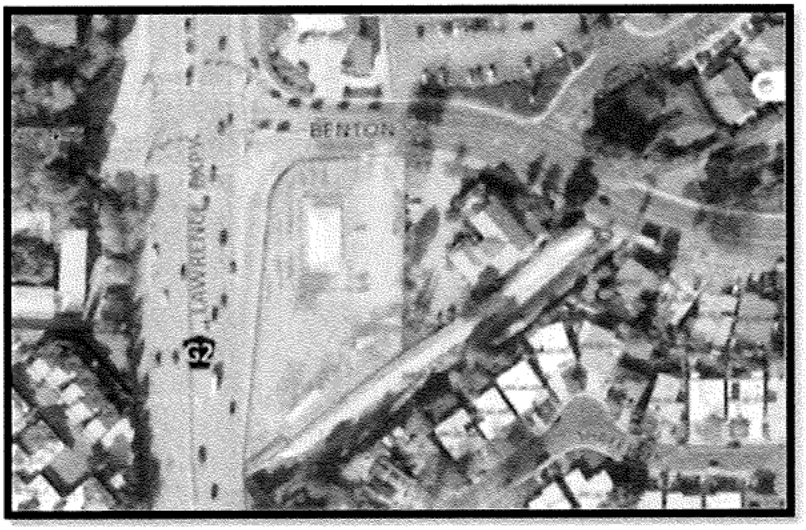
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Name	Yanping zhao
Address	[redacted]
Email Addr	[redacted]
Comment:	oppose to this project

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Name Yan Dong	
Address [redacted]	
Email Address	

Comment:

I strongly oppose this project, Please find a non-residential area, We will do whatever it takes to protect our kids, seniors and the community

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Name	
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	

No.

I would like my tax dollar go to support low income apartment not low barrier shelter

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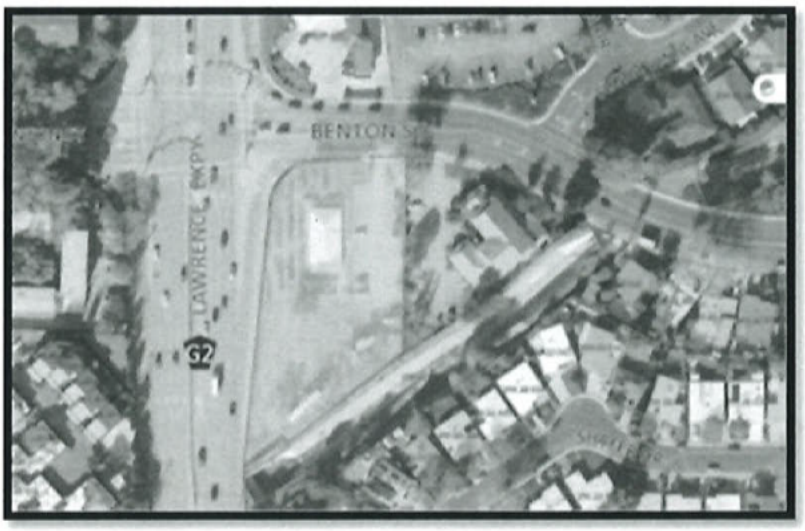
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Name NIRANJAN	
Address [redacted]	
Email Address	
Comment: NO Dont make decision unaccountable	

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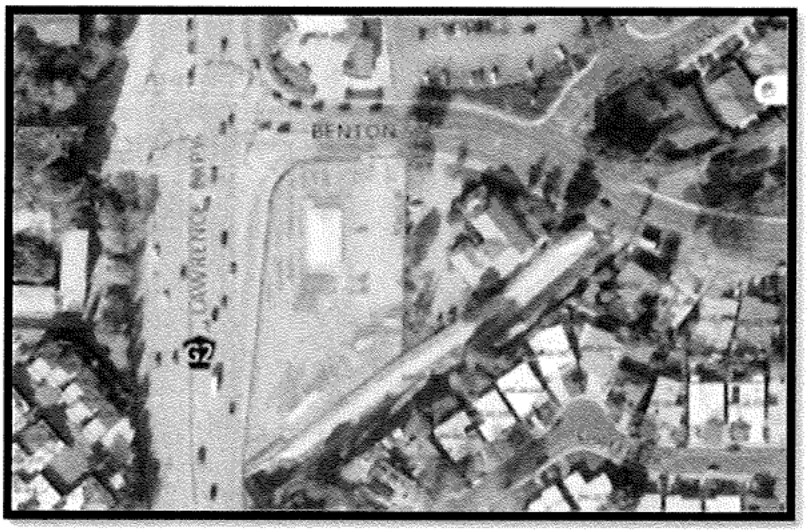
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Name	Wendy [redacted]
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	No!!!

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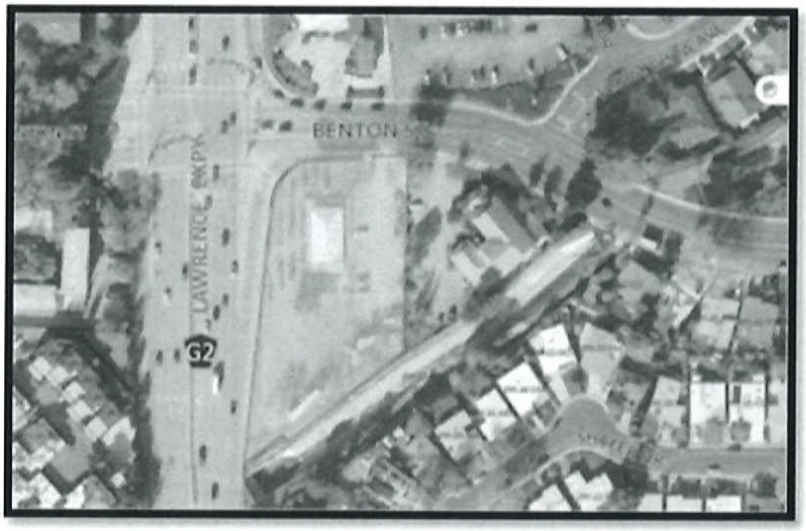
Name Jue Lao	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad [redacted]	
Commen [redacted]	

I urge city council to explore and publish alternate location options and intake criteria options. Before that, reject ~~this~~ terrible proposal that has zero considerations for local residents in such a dense area.

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Name ~~Mauricio Chavez~~ Mauricio Chavez	
Address	
Email Address	

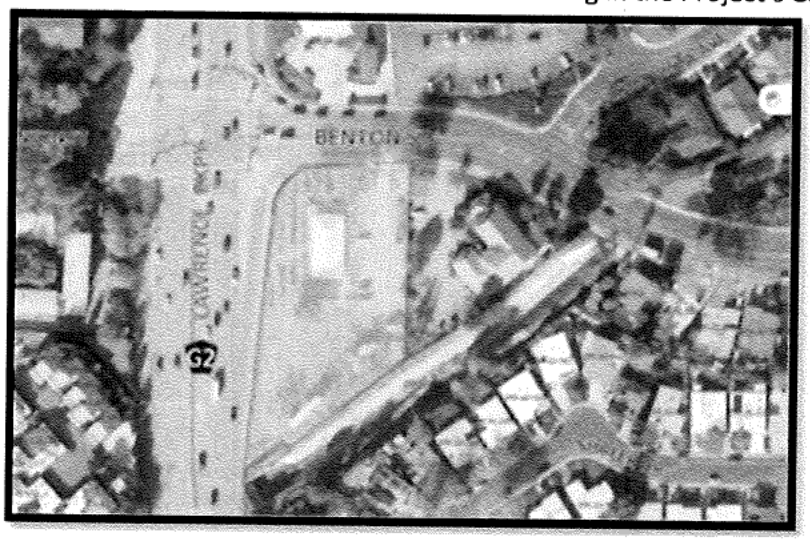
Comment:

I grew up with my mother being a social worker, housing the homeless, getting them jobs, getting them on a righteous path, my wife was also a social worker doing the same. Ive taken to the streets and fed the homeless. I am in full support of this project. These are people just like yall and I. The only thing seperating us is 1 or 2 choices, 1 or 2 hands dealt by life, and sometimes mental health took the choice out of their hands. Homelessness is not pretty, but something needs to be done, and this is a step in the right direction.!!

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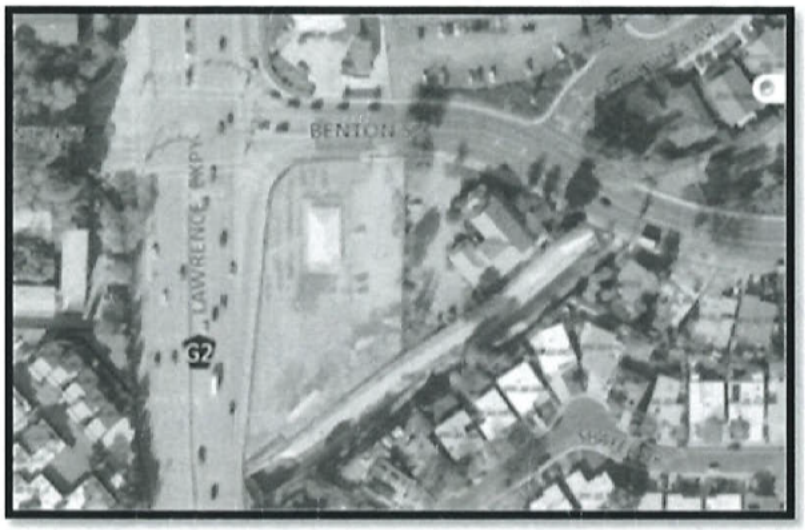
Name	The Zhang
Address	[redacted]
Email Addr	[redacted]
Comment:	[redacted]

I strongly oppose this shelter.
I propose funds for supporter's to purchase bunker bed to buddy up with the homeless who needs help. ☺ Or rebate for supporters to build ADU to help the situation.

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Name	Mohammad Faizullah sharify
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

Hi I am living in hotel and I am homeless with my kid and wife it is almost 40 day I appaly for shelter but I can't pay more at hotel I don't have job nothing.
I need ~~a~~ any apartment if you can help me I take you program time form acci.
Thank you [redacted]

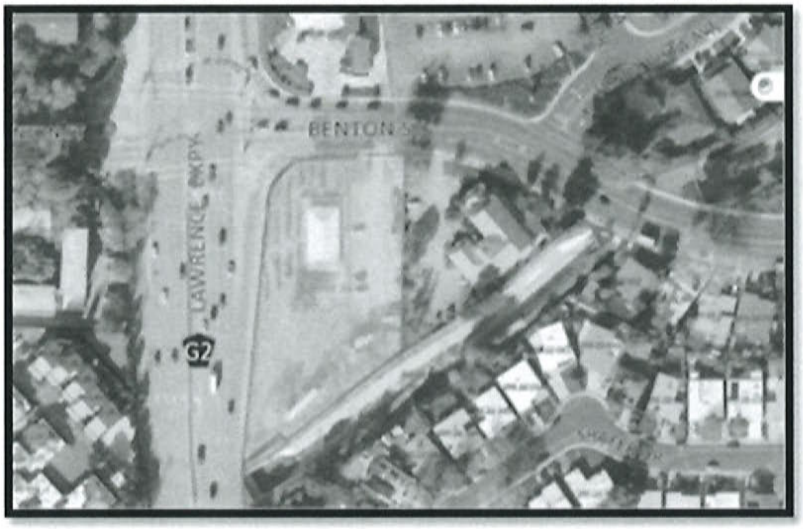
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Note :- I apply a lot of palcese and
Can't find any palce to live
palse Help my with my
Family I am working as a volunteer
with support live foundation
you can take my information
form support life foundation too.

Thankyou.

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Name	Ramiz Rafizada
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	Hi my name is Ramiz I come form mixco Broder to USA and I didn't any cash aid or foodstmps I need your emergency Help to give me an arpatment. palese Help me as soon as you can I think you.

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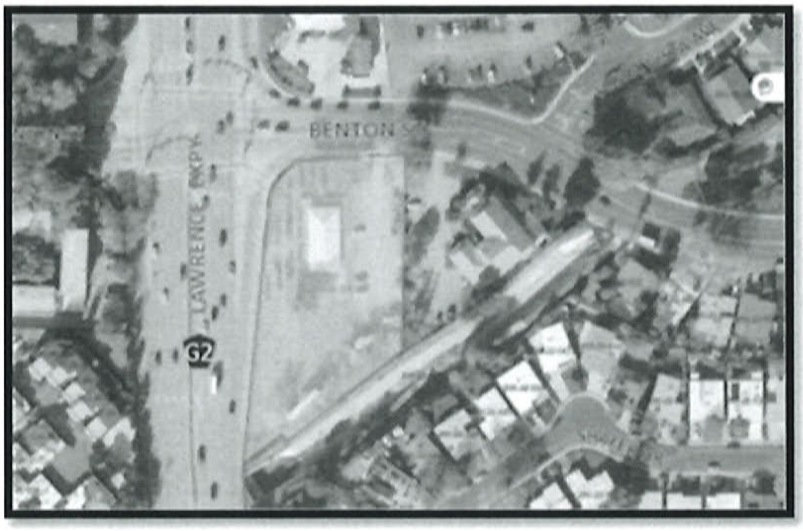
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Name	Sosan sharify
Address	
Email Address	sosan.sharify@icloud.com [redacted]
Comment:	I need you to save my family live palase help me and kids and my husband.

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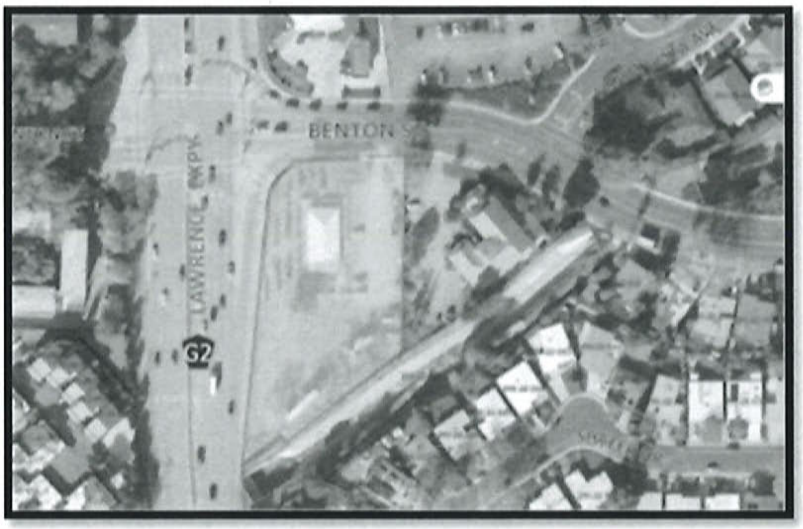
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Name Mohammad I Ibrau	
Address [redacted]	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment: Hi my name is Mohammad Ibrahim form afghanistan. I am laving with my two kid need palce to live and I can't pay for my apartment. Thank you I wailth for your respon.	

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Name	Rina Rahmati
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

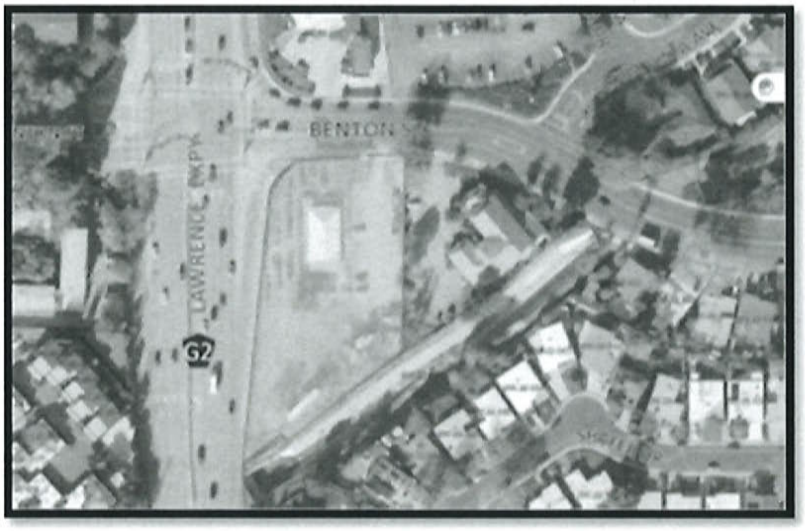
Comment:

I and my family recently moved from Afghanistan with many difficulties. ~~I am~~ We are currently staying at a hotel. We are very concerned about our future here. I hope this community or LifeMoves resettle us in a safe and secure house to start a happily life here.

VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE: https://osh.sccgov.org/project-homekey-scc/benton
EMAIL US:
City Contact: Adam Marcus amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
County Contact: Consuelo Hernandez Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org
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Name	Zahra ElMasi
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

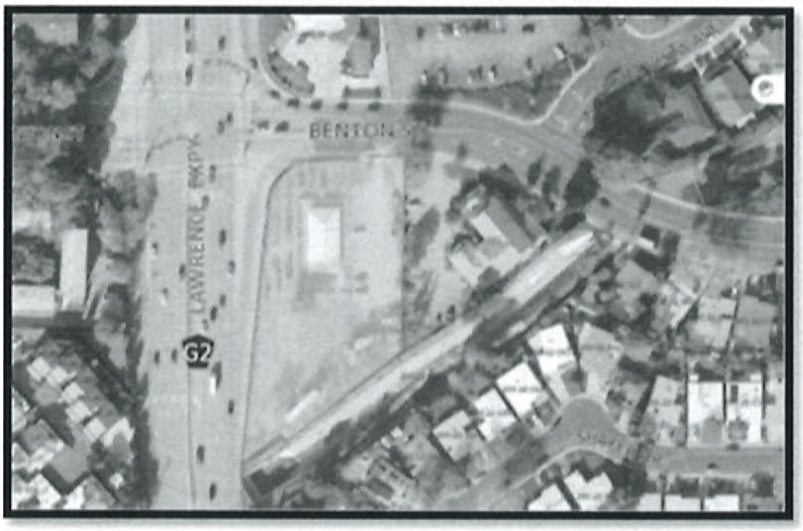
Comment:

I have moved to the U.S recently from Afghanistan with many difficulties. now I am staying at a hotel and am very concerned about my future specially having a safe house I hope this community and ~~life~~ lifemoves provide a safe home to restart a better life here with my family.

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Name	Ahmad Rashed Niazi
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

I have moved from Afghanistan with a lot of difficulties and now I am staying at a hotel. I am very concerned about paying a high rent in here. I hope to be settled at a safe and secure home and start a new life here without depression and happily.

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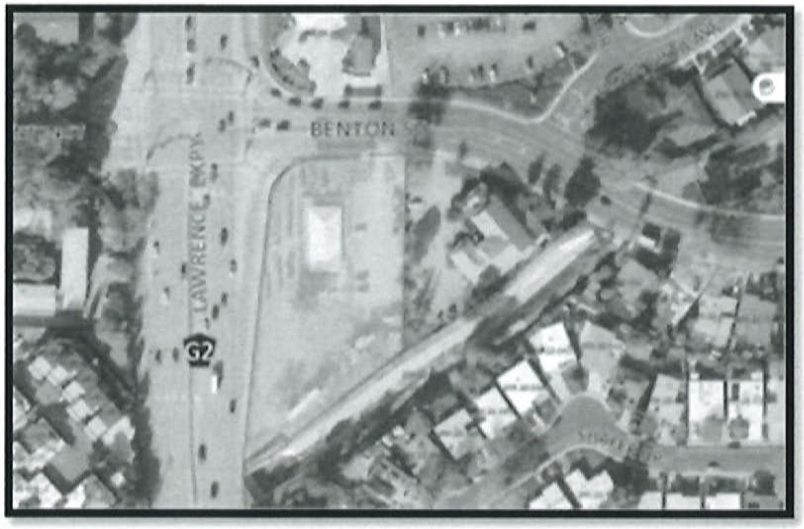
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Name	Ahmad Khalid Naweem
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	Greetings - this is Ahmad Khalid Naweem My self and my family Moved to USA from Afghanistan staying in a hotel in Sunnyvale with difficulty of situation due to unknown future and homeless we really need help to be settled and strat a new life here! Please help us

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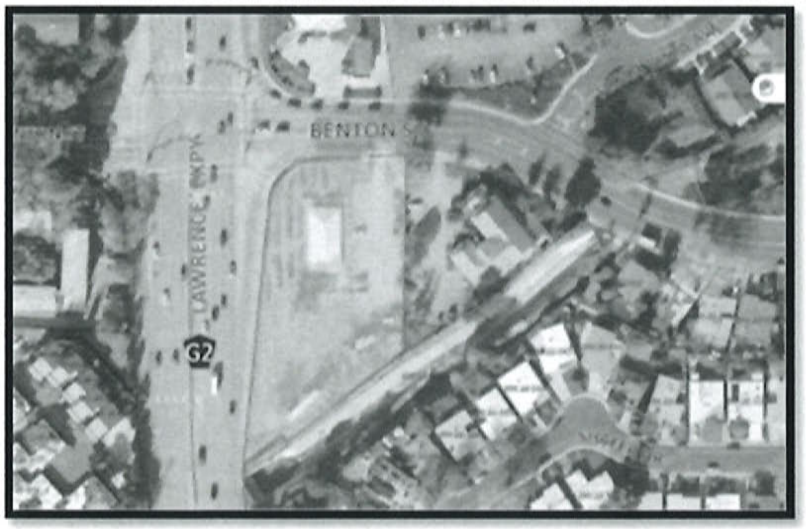
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Name	Zainab bibi shirzad
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I moved from Afghanistan to the USA with my family and living in a hotel with a lot of difficulty and problems and I am concern of paying high rent and settaling here I hope to be seattal here and please help us to start a new life and be secure.

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Name	Asma Asdam
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

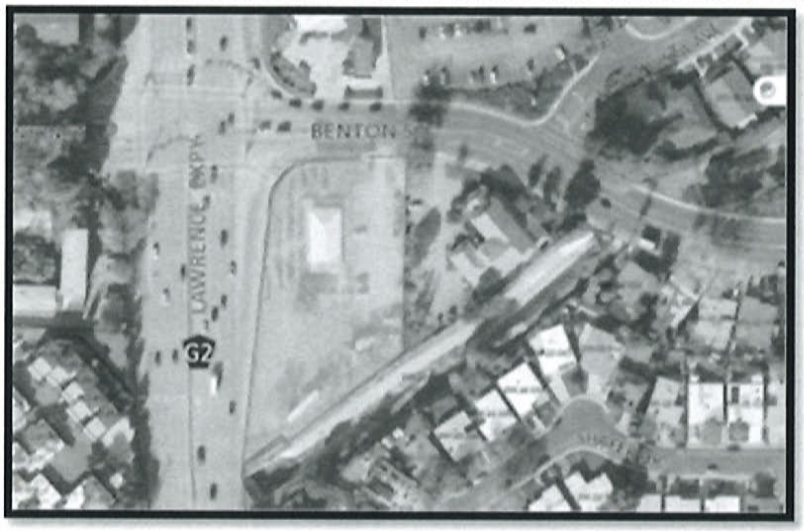
I moved to USA from Afghanistan as an girl and want to be seated here and to have a place and feel secure and safe

Please help me.

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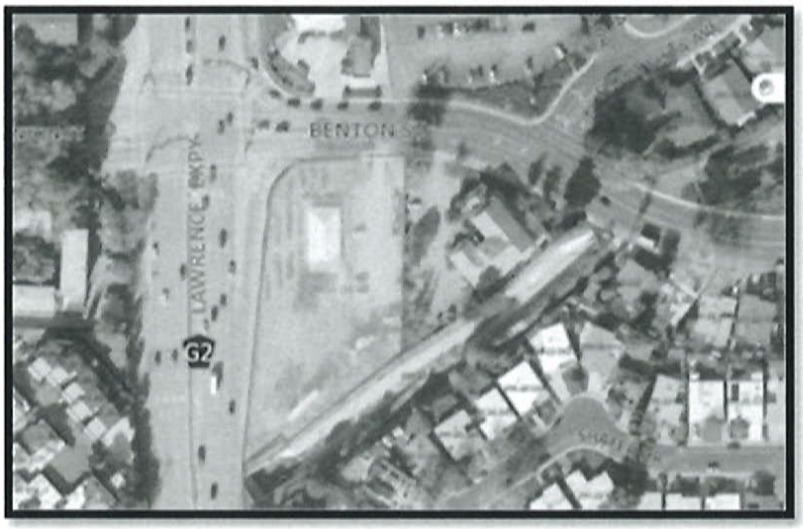
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Name	Basir Ahmad Rahmati
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I came to the USA from Afghanistan and staying in hotel with a lot of difficulty and I hope to be seated in home with my family and find save and start a new life here happiely

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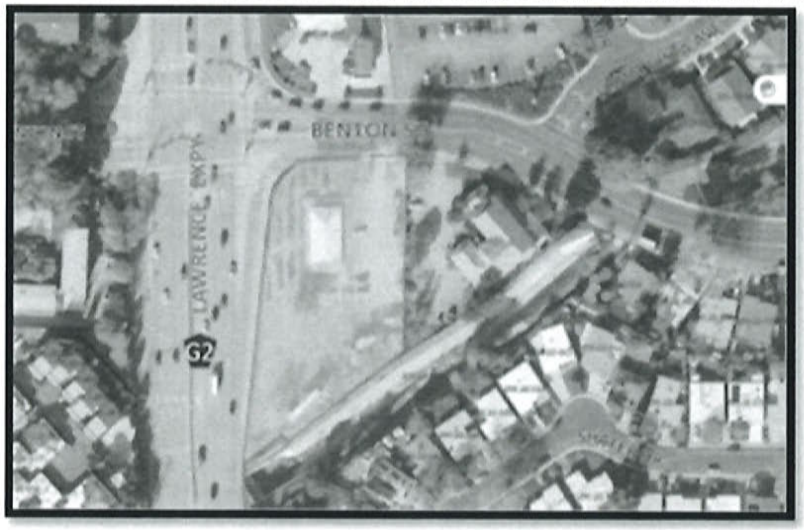
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Name	Ali Reza elyasi
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I come fovar afghanistan with my faumily and I am brok I dont have any palce to live I am living at the hotel. right now paleas help me.

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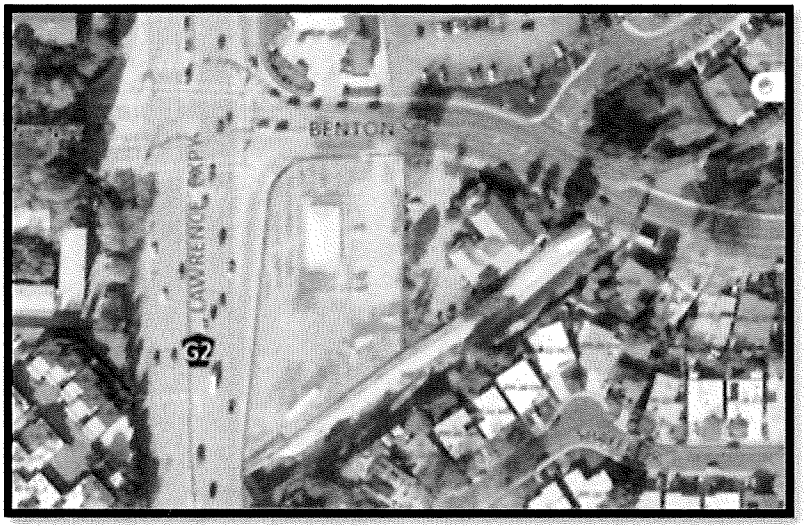
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Name	Hasina Ehyasi
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	I and my family just moved from Afghanistan with very difficulties. I am staying at a hotel along with my husband and my 1 and half years old daughter. I am very worried about my future. I hope you resettle us at a safe and secure house to start a better life.

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Name	Aashi Verma
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

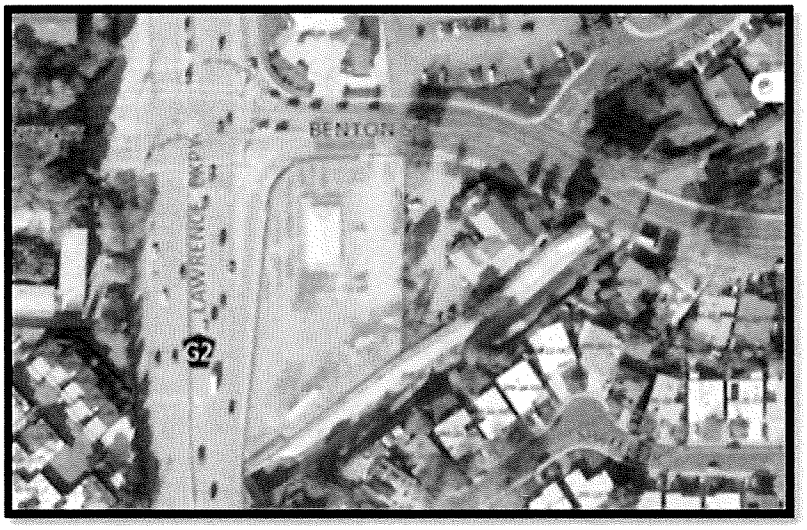
Comment:

Abe Lincoln said " My right to swing my fist ends where your nose beings". This is now hitting our nose. Playing with our safety, our livelihood is NOT OK!

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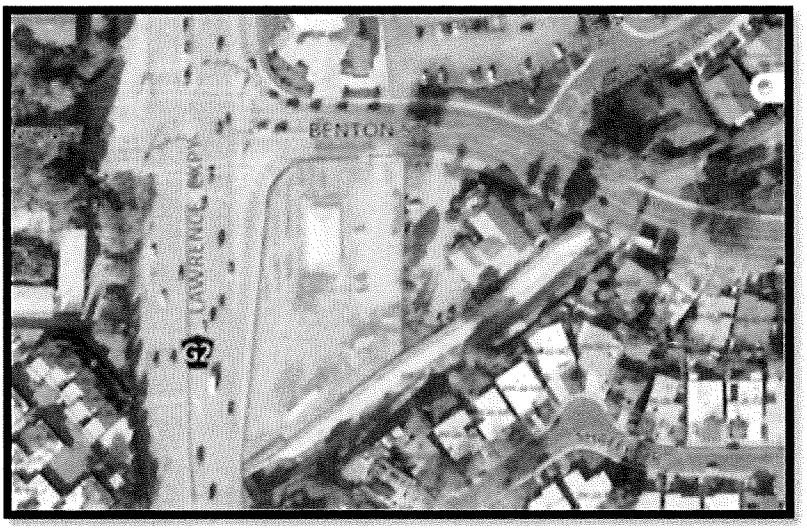
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Name	Yiren Yan
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I oppose this Benton Shelter. It's low-barrier, close to liquor store, express way, schools. And no long-term funding after the first 3 years. This project will attract more people with crime back-ground to the neighborhood.

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Name Xiangfei Zhou	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad	

Comment: I strongly oppose the project for the following reasons:

① Walking distance to 15 schools serving 10,483 students

② Low to NO barrier screening which puts our community at risk

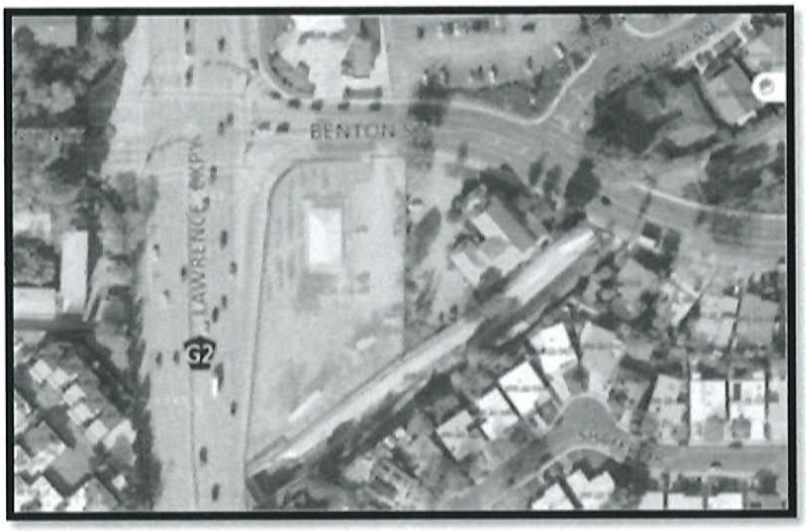
③ NO funding plan after 3 years

④ 80% supporters don't live nearby, they shouldn't represent us

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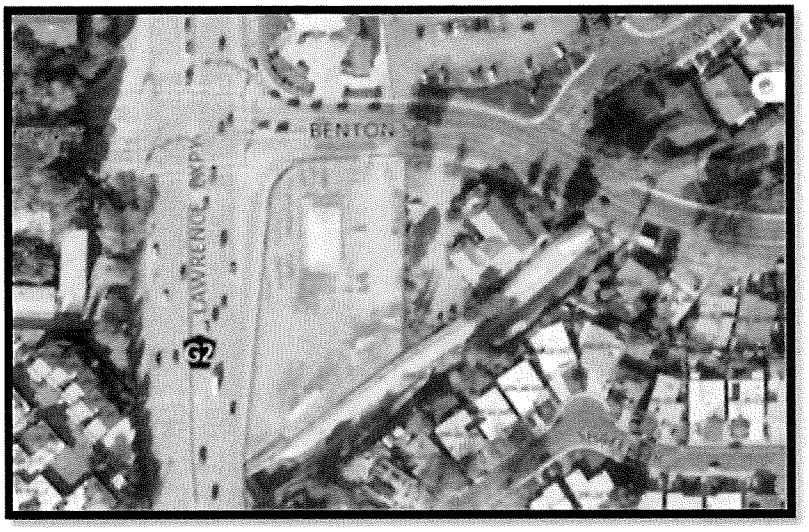
Name	Neelu Kumawat
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:
Low barrier shelter is not okay. Have homeless families & with children live in this shelter. Please know that a homeless person is very different than a homeless person with mental illness, a kind homeless is not same as a homeless with criminal background, a homeless who become homeless due to life situations is very different than a sex offender.

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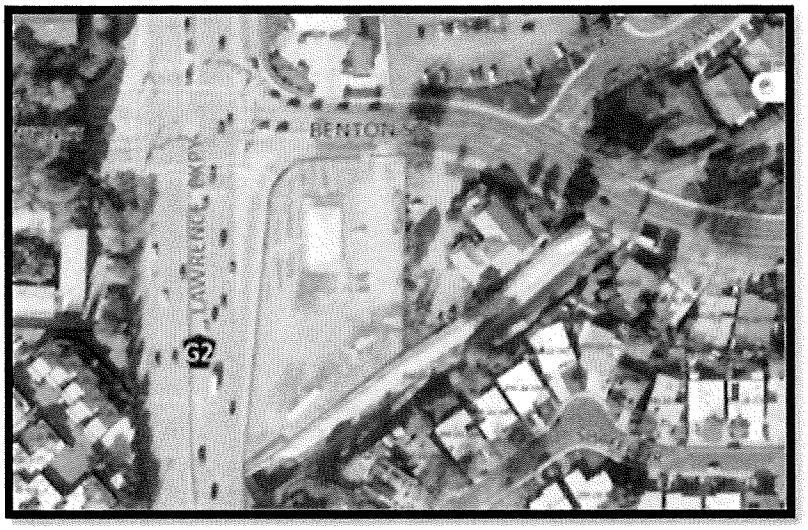
Name	Anjali S
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:
~~This~~ You have a ~~wrong~~ responsibility not just towards homeless but also towards your tax paying citizens. This will put our family's safety at risk. Enough is enough. Nothing comes ~~first~~ higher than a hardworking person's family's safety. Do not put our kids at risk. Data points from Milpitas police are a proof that this is NOT safe for anyone.

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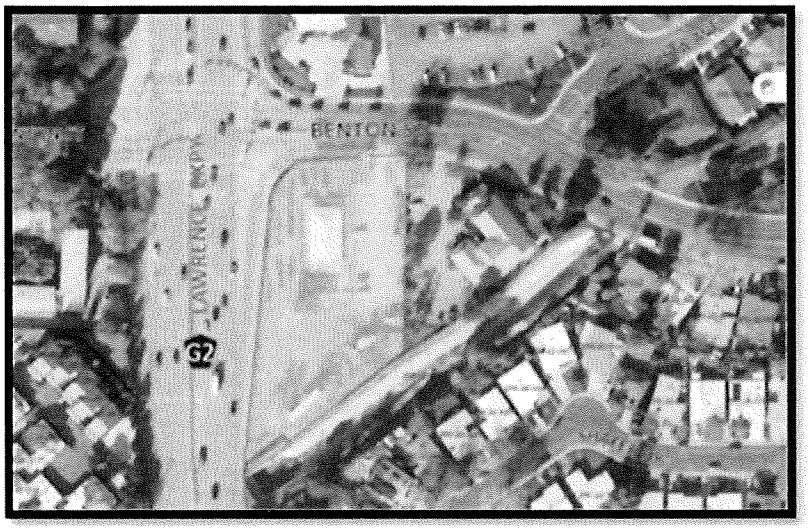
LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	Sahil Kumawat
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment: I'd like more info on low barrier housing shelter. Clear rules – please share them.	

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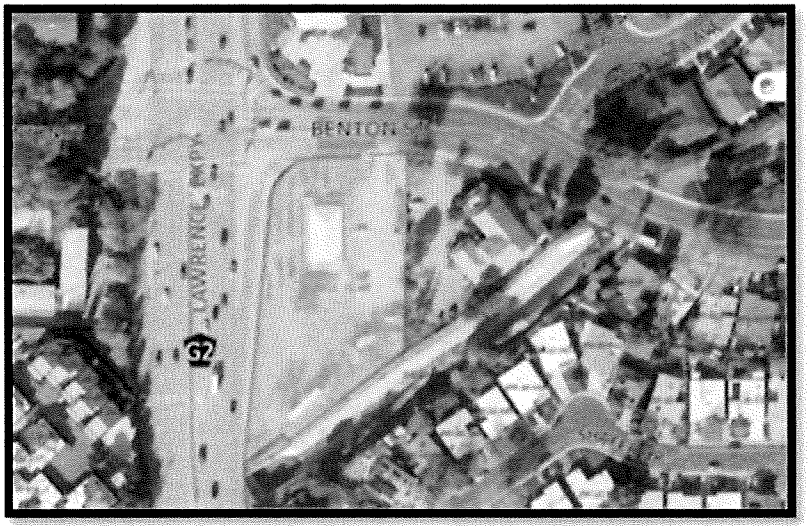
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Name	Tianshan Cui
Address	[redacted]
Email Addr	[redacted]
Comment:	Strongly opposed to this project due to safety concern. I used to work and live at SF, where I have so many stories to tell regarding the experience with homeless. For a low barrier proj, I anticipate the same situation happen in my dear neighborhood — random punch, sexual assult, poop and pee everywhere. Please say No to this project! Please save our community!

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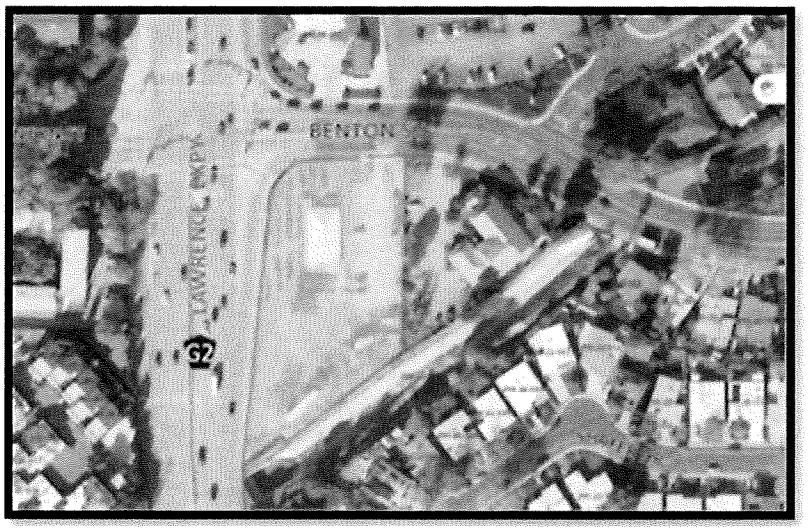
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Name Lynn Wang	
Address	
Email Address	
Comment: protect our kids, not at this location to build homeless shelter!!	

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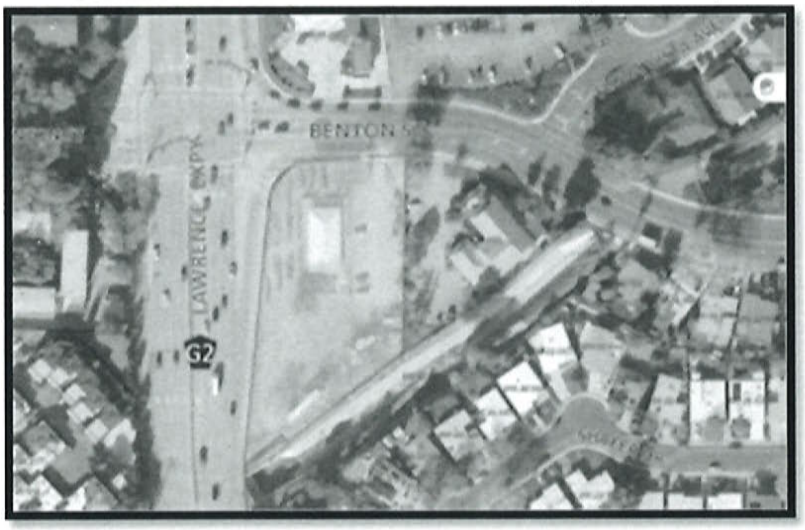
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Name	[illegible]	
Address	[redacted]	
Email Address		
Comment:	Low barrier is not safe for neighborhood we have young kid here !	

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Name	Vince Xi
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

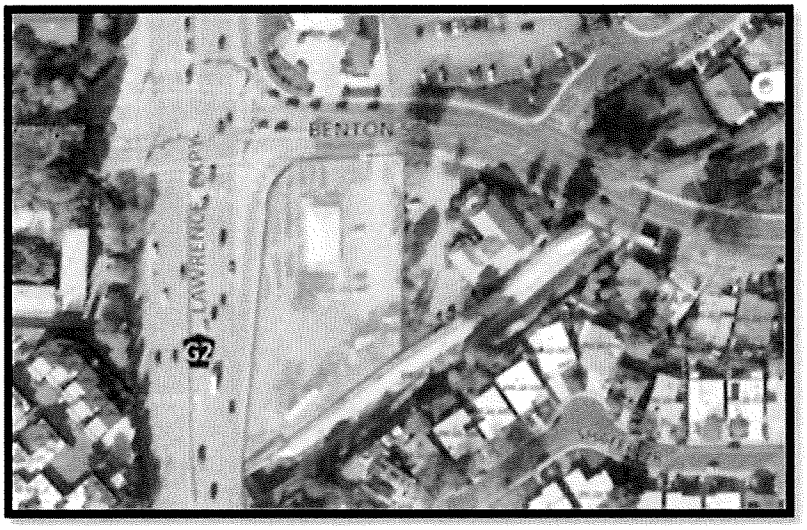
I strongly against the Benton homeless shelter. You already heard people's voice in previous hearings. if you make this decision recklessly without taking our opinions, County officials, Listen Clearly:

We WILL VOTE YOU OUT!!! we mean it!!!!

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Name	
Address	
Email Address	

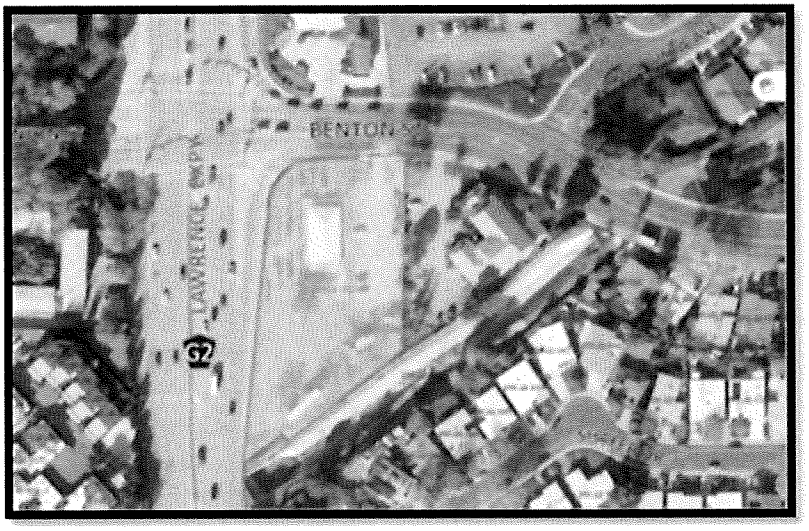
Comment:

I AM Not in FAVOR AND I believe The information Provided by The Person in Charge WAS Not Accurate I AM strongly Opposed AS I do Not believe it will be well policed. I do Not Think This is The right placed I do not believe. We HAVE The Police Force

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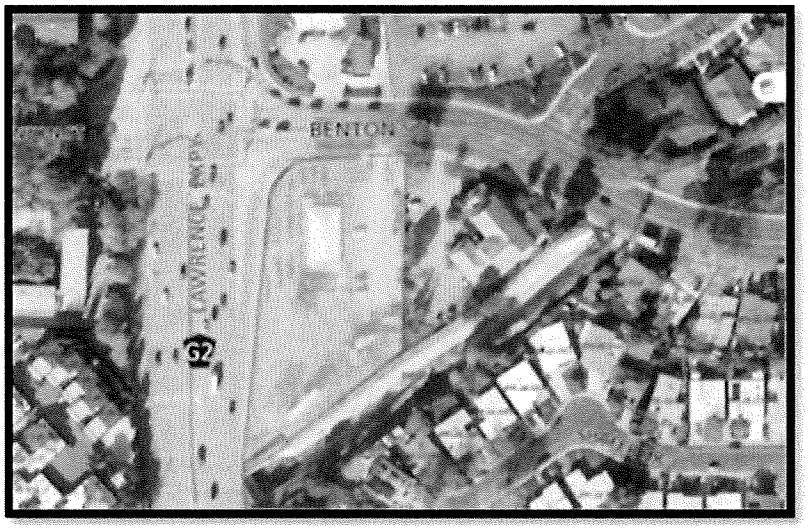
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Name Kirk Hinton	
Address [redacted]	
Email Add [redacted]	
Comment: I strongly support the interim housing; will there be volunteer opportunities if it is built? How can we get involved?	

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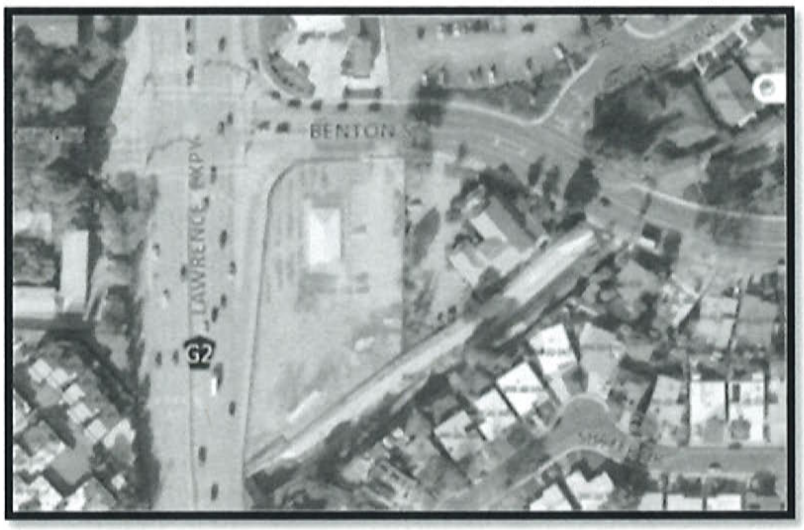
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Name Jodi	
Address Santa Clara	
Email Address [redacted]	
Comment: STRONGLY OPPOSED. PROBLEMS WILL COME OUT OF THIS TO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. Just because the housing has rules does not mean they will be followed. OUR HOMES THAT WE WORK HARD FOR WILL BE DE-VALUED. WHO WILL RE-IMBURSE US FOR THAT? CITY Council + Co. Council do you want this on the end of your blocks??	

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Name	Yulan Huang
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

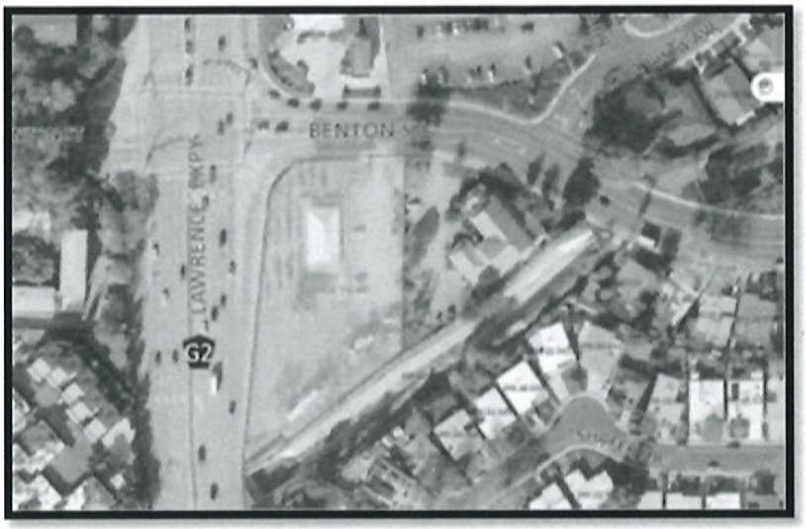
Comment:

I strongly oppose this site Bento-Lawrence for nonscreening shelter. It is so close to around 20-30 elementary, middle and high schools, daycares and also to the houses where a lot of seniors live. This puts ~~the~~ a huge saftey issue to this large community with mental-illness people and people from jails living in this potential Bento-Lawrence shelter. This place should be for teachers, nurses, policemen, and fire fighters who contribute a lot to the community.

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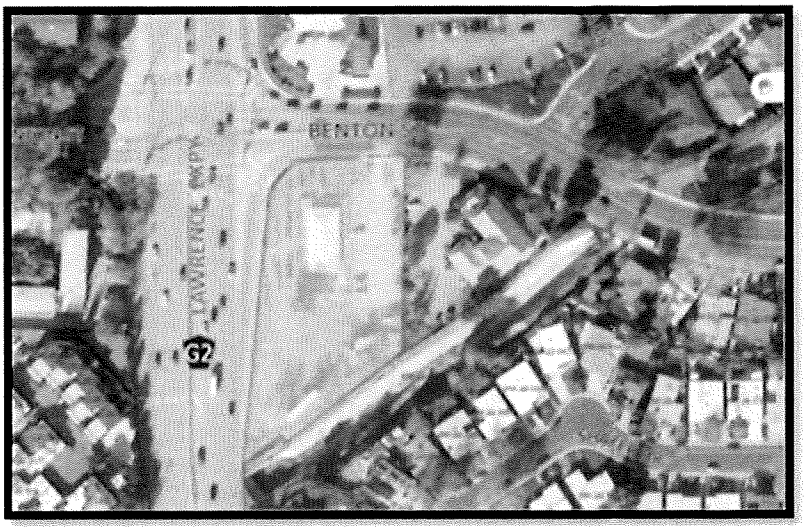
Name TACHLWG LEE	
Address [redacted] SANTA CLARA, CA	
Email A [redacted]	
Comment:	

① Too close to 15 schools nearby: Not safe to our kids
② Proximity to busy expressway: easy to cause car accident
③ Crime rate will be increased.
④ Not right to have such a low barrier homeless shelter in residence area.

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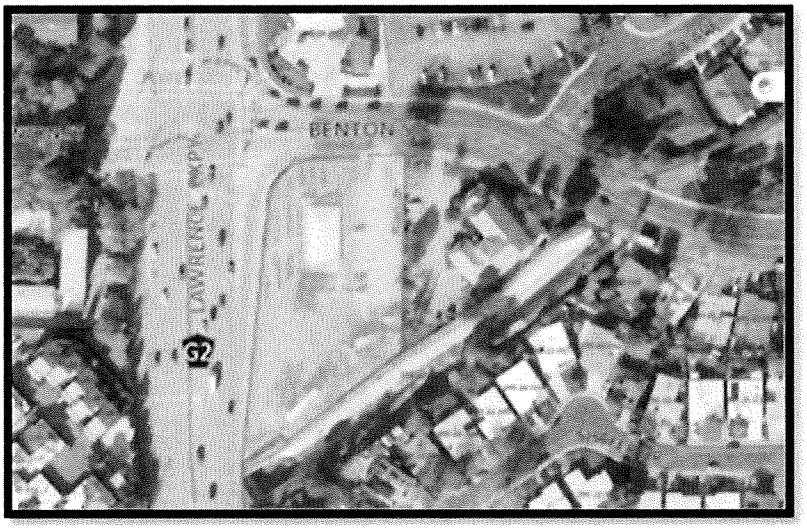
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Name	Tie Feng
Address	[redacted] San Jose, CA. 95129
Email Ad	[redacted]
Comment:	1. How long do the people usally stay in this interim housing.? 2. In a normal day, what are the people going to do during the day.?

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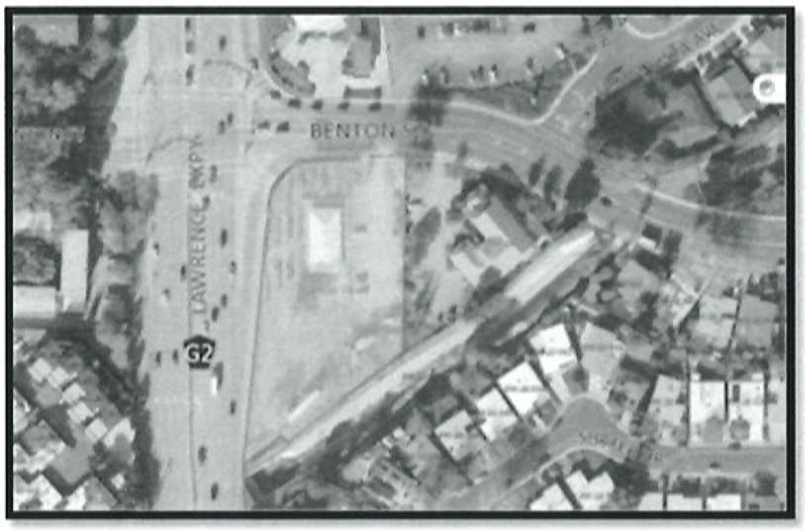
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Name	Yiwei Sun
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara
Email Address	[redacted] il.com
Comment:	STRONGLY OPPOSE!! This shelter has so many risks and concerns from the community. The safety issue, the children in this area, are in danger of the crime. This location should be built for police / teachers / nurses who should live in affordable housing.

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Name	
Address [redacted]	
Email Add	

Comment:

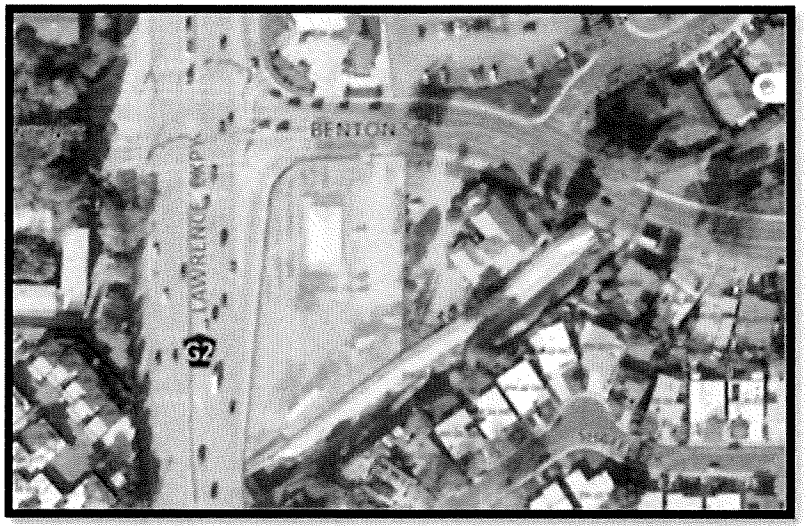
I am opposed to this

Say No to this

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Name	Cui Cao
Address	[redacted] Sunnyvale,
Email Address	

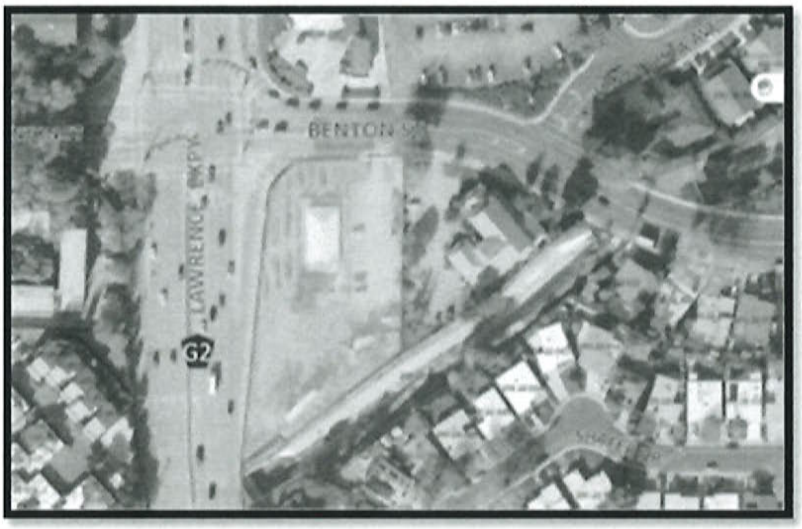
Comment:

The interim housing is in wrong location, unsafe for all, understaffed operation and put the community at risk! So as a local resident, I strongly oppose to build this kind of housing in this location!

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Community Meeting No. 3 – Thursday, March 9, 2023
Benton & Lawrence Expressway

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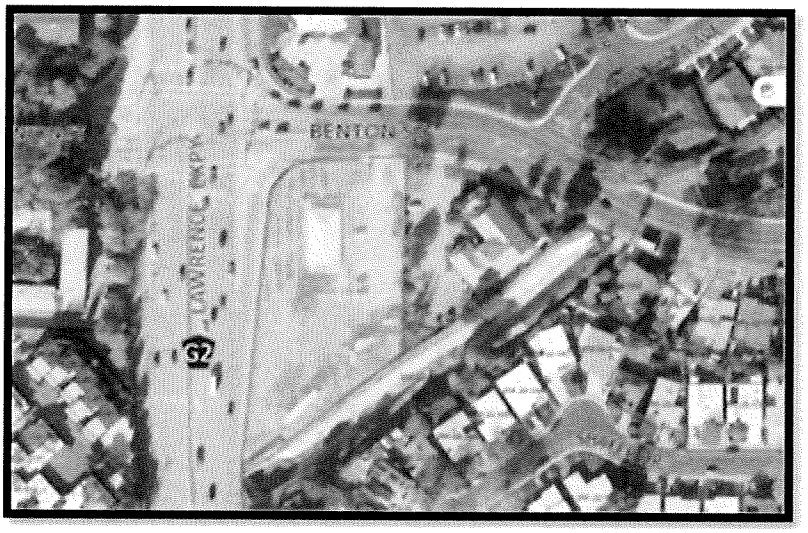
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Name	Chao-Wen Huang
Address	[redacted]
Email Addre	
Comment:	No to the Benton shelter, ← By "shelter", I'm including all homeless housing including interim housing. Yes to the safety of our kids and seniors, I strongly oppose the Benton shelter, I lived in SF for many years with semi permanent homeless street nearby, and I know personally the threats to safety.

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Name	Joan She.
Address	[redacted] Sunnyvale 94087
Email Addre	[redacted]

Comment:

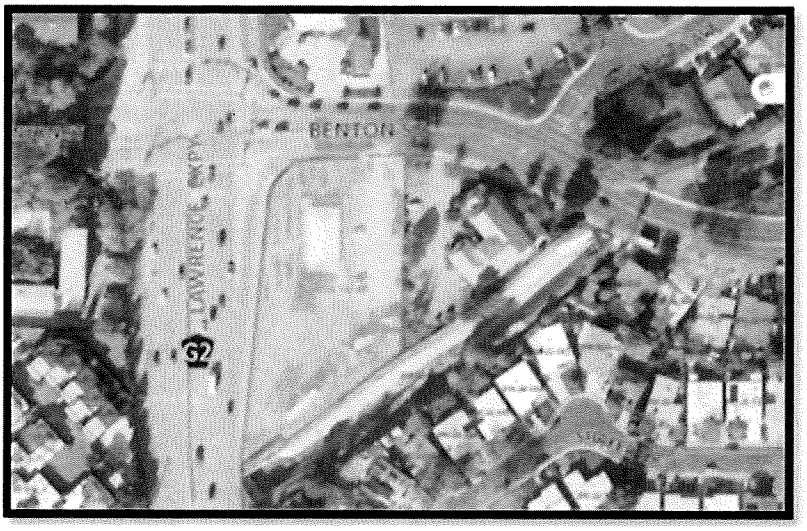
Dear Santa Clara County's Board & Santa Clara City Board,

I oppose Benton shelter strongly! This shelter will located in a very wrong location. It is adjacent to Lawrence Expy ~~which~~ with very busy traffic, and close to 15 schools in 1.5 miles. As a mother with two kids, I concern my and our neighborhood's children's safety. This shelter will put ~~the~~ our community at risk. please protect our neighborhood. I believe County & City can find a more better place to build a homeless shelter.

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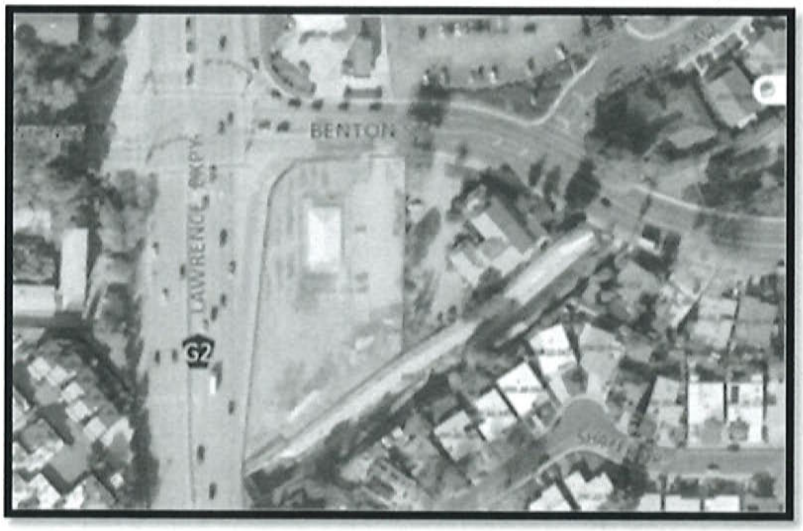
Name YUE ZHENG	
Address [redacted], Santa Clara, CA, 95054	
Email Address [redacted]	
Comment:	

No ! No homeless shelter on Benton & Lawrence Expressway.

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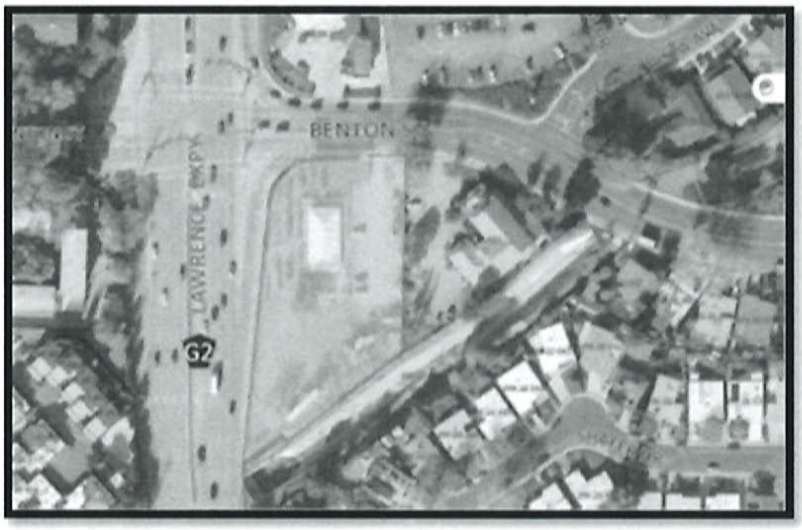
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Name	Susan Anderson
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I completely oppose this plan. Do not ruin our neighborhood! Find a different place. Our children's safety & the safety of our homes must come first. Listen to the neighbors who live here. On a historic stormy night, we came out in a great number to voice our opinion — No!

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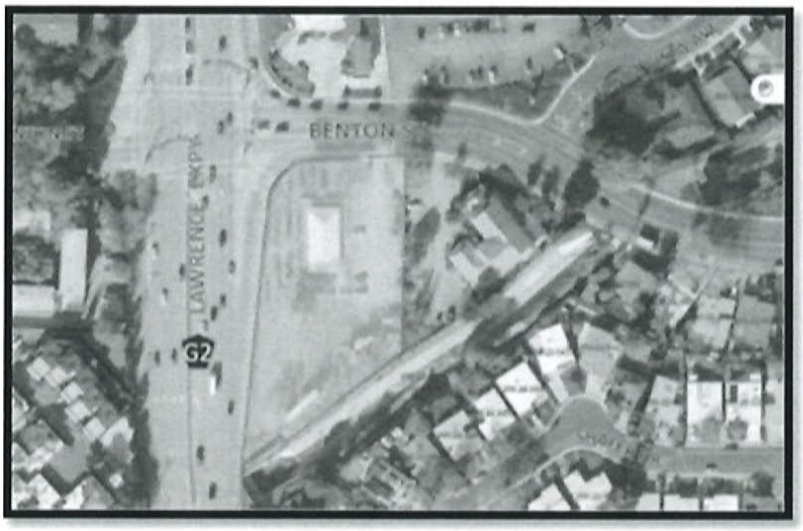
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Name Richard Anderson	
Address [redacted]	
Email Ad[redacted]	
Comment: Your intentions, though with good intention are misguided in judgement and choice of site. This is not a proper site for many community safety reasons presenting serious risk factors to neighborhood residents, both physical and finantial. I completely disagree with this choice of site. It has no infrastructure. To install infrastructure will be extremely disruptive to a VERY busy intersection and 5 STORY concept is ridiculous and intrusive for such a small lot.	

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Name	Nanxi Yi
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	

I strongly against it

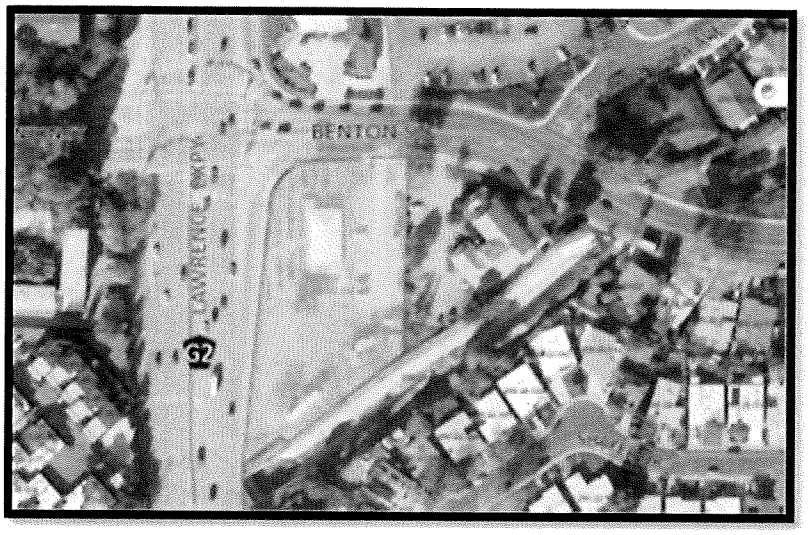
Stats show low-barrier homeless shelter causes 300% crime rate at residential area

It'll be a huge threat to Residents.

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Name	Rui Diao
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara, CA
Email Address	

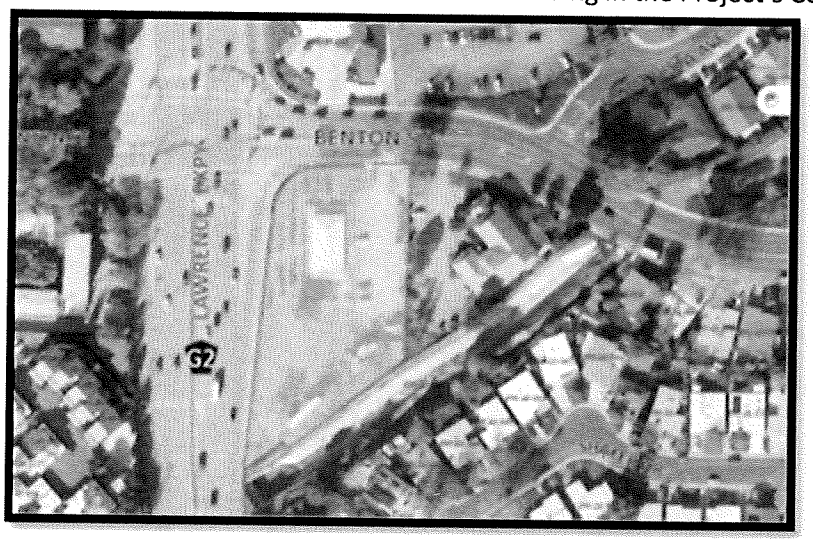
Comment:

The number showed in the meeting is significantly biased. There are a lot more school nearby not shown on the map. The deck showed the number of police call decreased around the San Jose shelter, it's actually due to short staffing. Search for "San Jose police are getting slower at responding calls". police officers have to spend more time for homeless people.
Also search for "Effect of emergency winter homeless shelters on property crime"

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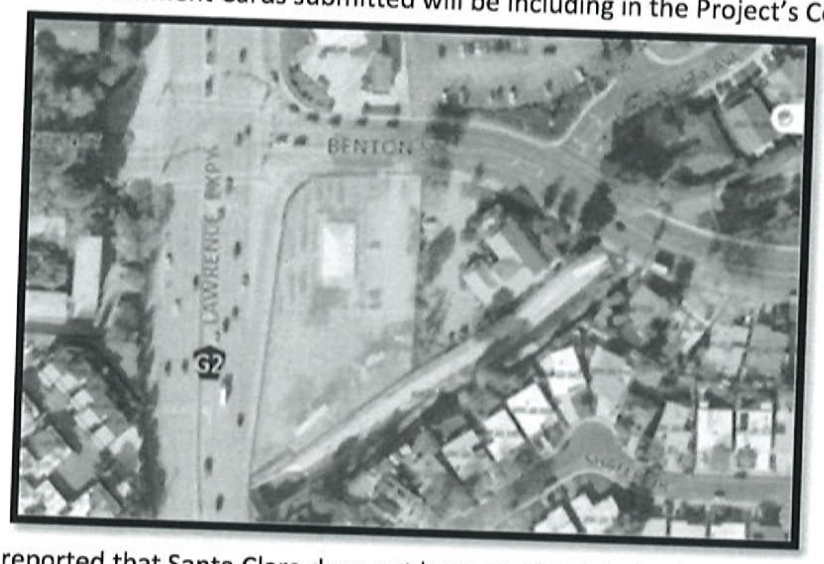
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Name	Kim Xie
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara, CA 9505[illegible]
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	Strongly against this project. Reasons: - Safety: private schools are within 0.25 mile, I don't know if danger happens, any potential attack to private school, how those little kids would survive. pls care about our young kids!!

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Name	Jun Wang
Address	[redacted] Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	I strongly oppose the location of this project! Close to high speed expressway. unsafe.

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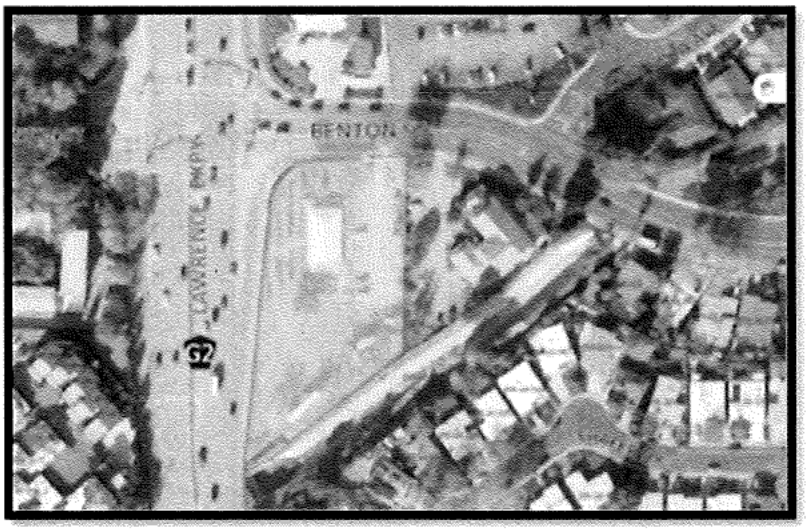
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Name	Chen Liao
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara, 95051
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	I strongly oppose the homeless shelter. I have kids and elderly at home. I can't imagine there would be more and more homeless wondering in the neighborhood. 3 days ago, my neighbor called PD because a homeless wondering at her front door at 4:00AM, ~~My horse was~~ yelling and ~~fi~~ Herring. ~~Also~~ I also called PD before due to similar issue. As women, we ~~feel~~ unsafe !

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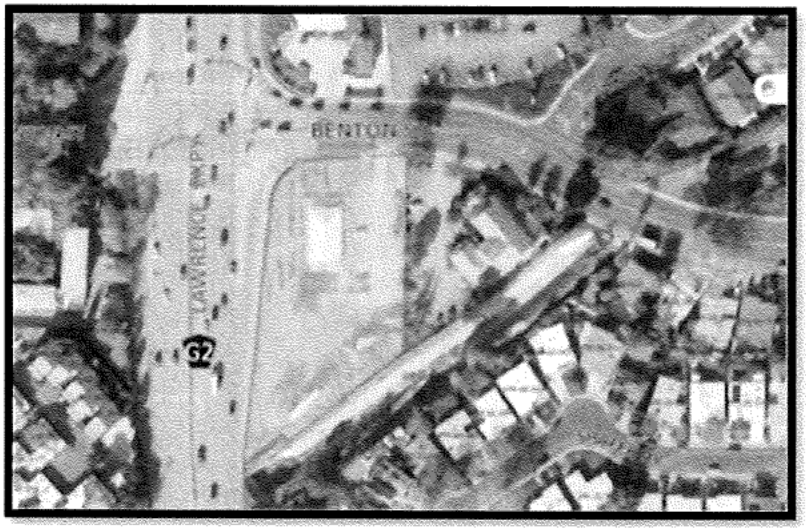
Name	Yuemina Sun
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara 95051
Email Address	[redacted]

Comment: I oppose this proposal.
The location is careless chosen, with so many schools.
The low barrier is not responsible to the community.
people in real need is fear to come.
as people allowed ~~one~~ include { mental illness. / Criminals / drug issues
No alternatives are provided by the county.
this is irresponsible.

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Name	Yinxue Jin
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara, CA 95051
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	I strongly oppose the proposal. The low barrier shelter is not helping those who really need the help. It's bringing significant security concern to our community, local schools and our kids. We propose to build affordable housing to reward the group who are helping our community, the doctors, nurses, teachers, firefighters, polices, etc.

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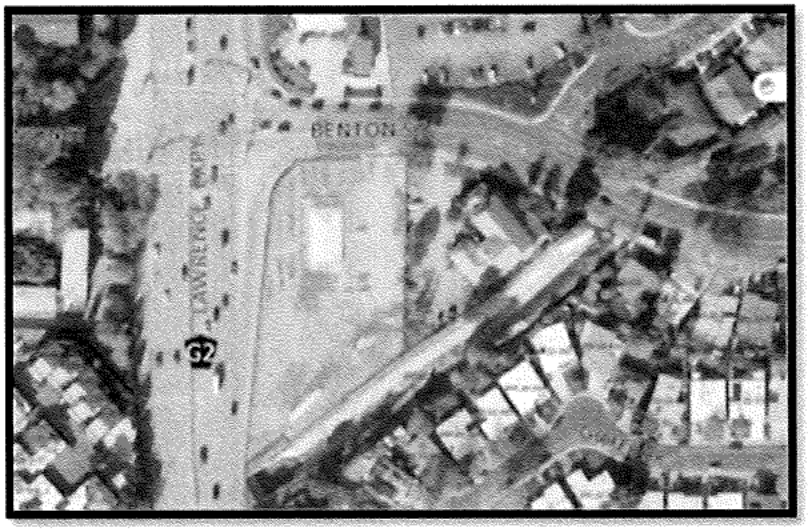
Name	XUEFENG ZENG
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara, CA, 95051
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	

I do NOT support the project in Benton & Lawrence Expressway. Because of the following reasons.
1. Close to the expressway resulting in the potential traffic risk
2. close to the comunity, school but away from public transition, grocery, and hospitals.

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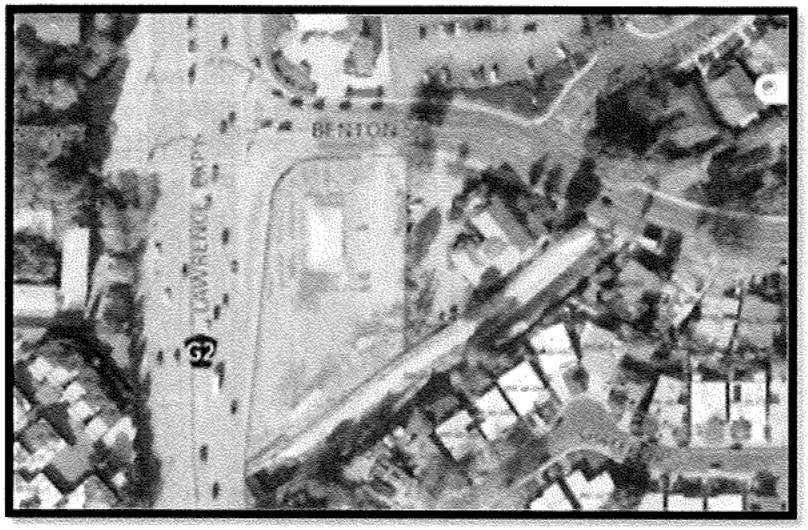
LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name Hel T	
Address [redacted] Sunnyvale	
Email Address [redacted]	
Comment: * oppose the location Wrong location for the unhoused folks, right next to an 8 Lane High Speed Expressway. unsafe for the unsheltered folks. unsafe for the Community. 15 schools, 10483 students within 1.5 miles.	

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Name Richa Kankaria	
Address [redacted] Santa Clara CA, 95051	
Email Address	

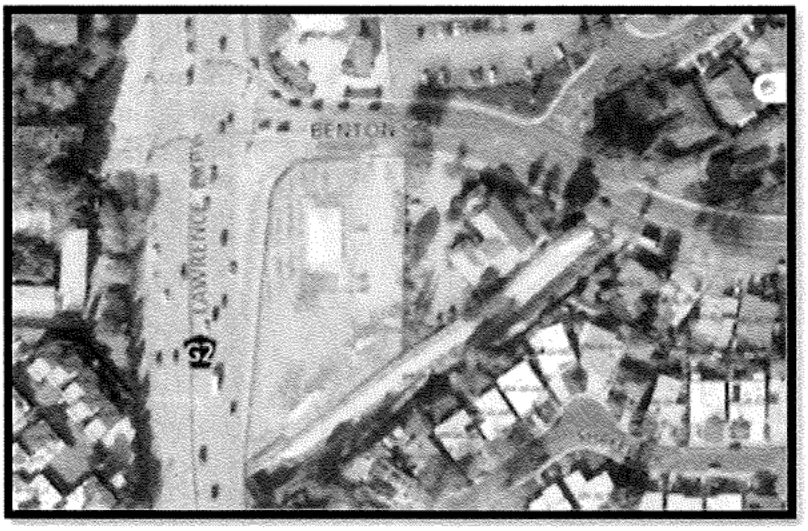
Comment:

I am strongly opposed to this project. This seems to be a temporary bandaid solution but when the bandaid of "free resources" is taken off, the people will flood in front of our doors, and its extremely insecure for our kids. We don't want our kids to be exposed to drugs, abusive language, molestation, weapons. How can you break these unpleasant habits & actually uplift people to help them develop good habits & We can be compassionate to these people, but will these people be compassionate to our kids?

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Name Ruiyang Ci	
Address [redacted]	
Email Addre [redacted]	

Comment:

1. The rule of the shelter is not going to magically work without plan of how to enforce it.
2. How to address the potential risk? Data from the Bureau of Justice Statiscs, people out of jail in 2012 has 70% arrested within 5 yrs. And you are bring people with crime history to the region
3. should engage community before the design and during the design.

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Name	ATS JENK
Address	[redacted] SANTA CLARA
Email Address	[redacted]

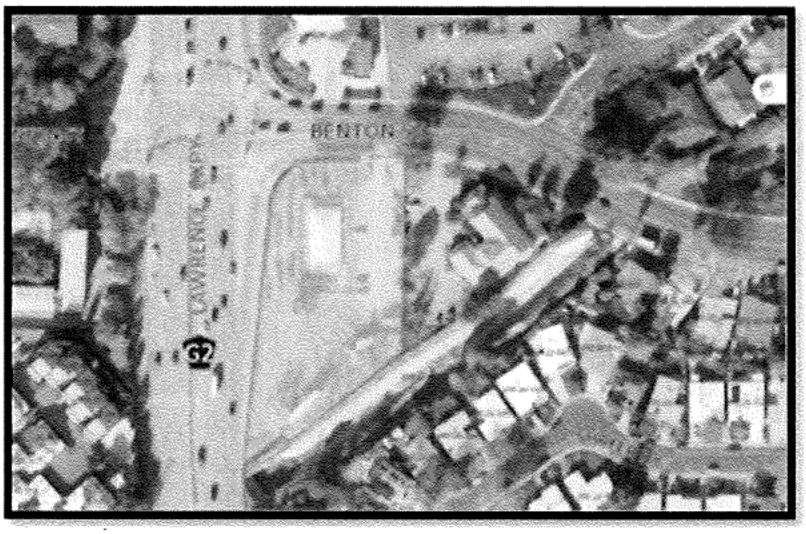
Comment:

I am against this proposal. This will be a large community right in the middle of a residential block. It is too close to homes. Also there is an expressway right next to it. Who guarantees nobody from the shelter wanders to there.
Also the information about schools is misleading. Some schools were omitted showing there are less schools than there actually are.

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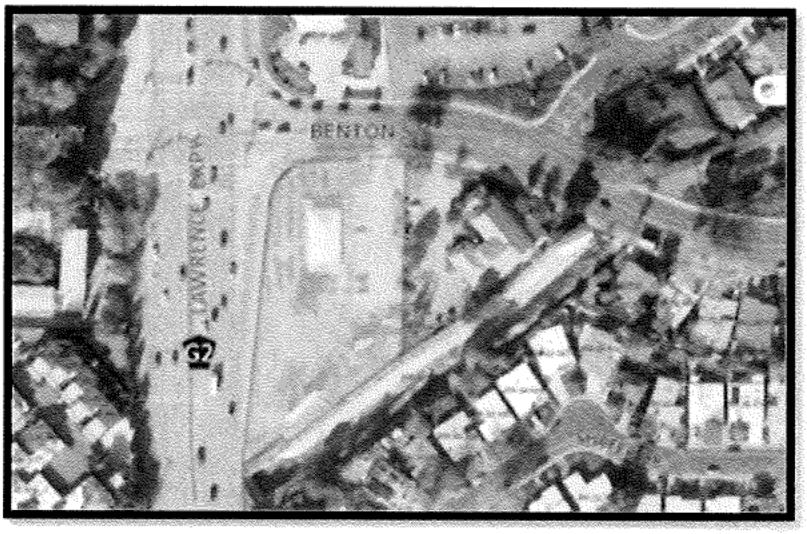
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Name	JOHN SELVARAJ
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	This whole project to me is like a comedy show. Please ~~Cancell~~ Cancell this whole project and try to spend money to the Schol. That will help ~~at least~~ this neighborhood a lot. I don't want to go in details. Please Cancell this projet for the betterment of this neighborhood.

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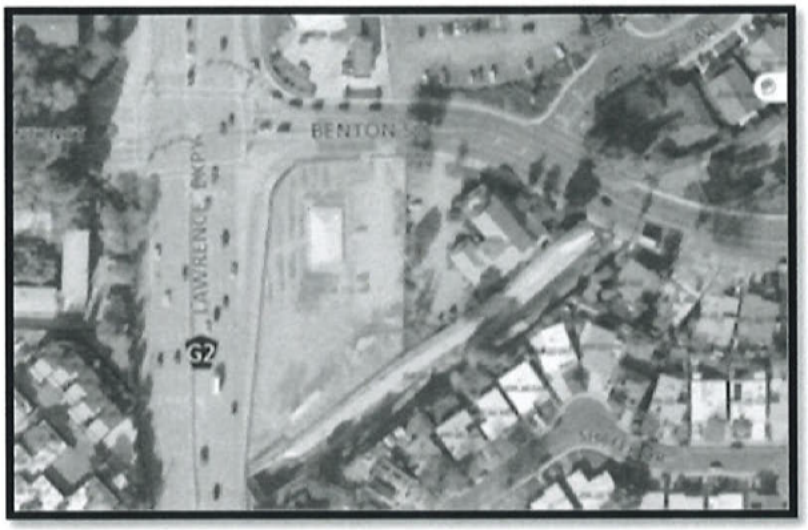
Name	Having Wu.
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara.
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	NO Shelter! Wrong Location! Safety issues. Do you know how many schools around that area??? [redacted]

Who told you that ???

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Name	Ashish Patel
Address	[redacted] Sunnyvale
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	It is unfortunate that county has decided to build a low barrier shelter at Lawrence & Benton without providing any details/commitments on funding law enforcement, traffic safety. I vehemently oppose this shelter. Instead use the land to build low income, senior support housing. We are not statistics. One negative incident will leave lifelong mark on our lives.

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Lawrence Expressway & Benton
Potential Interim Housing Site



Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 22nd, 6-8pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom:

https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/94536865765

Meeting ID: 945 3686 5765

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,94536865765#

Visit the Project Website to learn more:

https://osh.sccgov/org/project-homekey-scc/benton

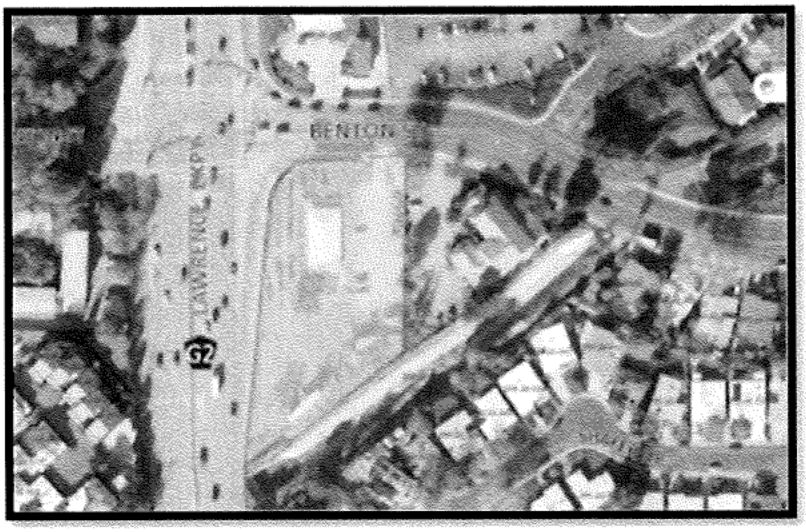
or scan QR code below:

LifeMoves
Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness

SOBRATO
Philanthropies

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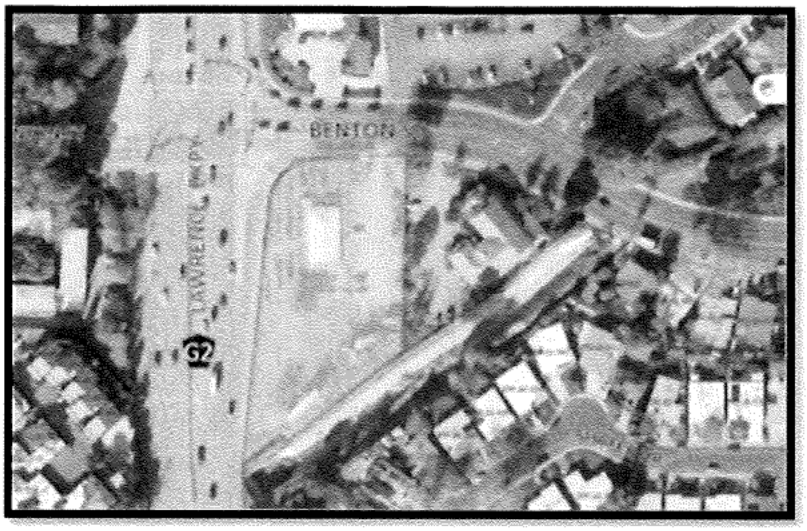
Name	Jiatong Chen
Address	[redacted], Sunnyvale, CA
Email Address	[redacted]

Comment: I strongly [oppose] building the shelter on this site.
1. Low barrier bar pose great threat to school, playground nearby, even for the people that are put inside will have high chance harming each other
2. bad ~~heavy traffic~~ location with heavy traffic and noise will cause more mental illness
3. White Oak site is turned down for the same reason
4. Bringing low barrier people with drug and mental issue in one place will cause the site as epic center with lots of crime activities. These people should be spreaded to different area instead of be gathered ~~tog~~ together

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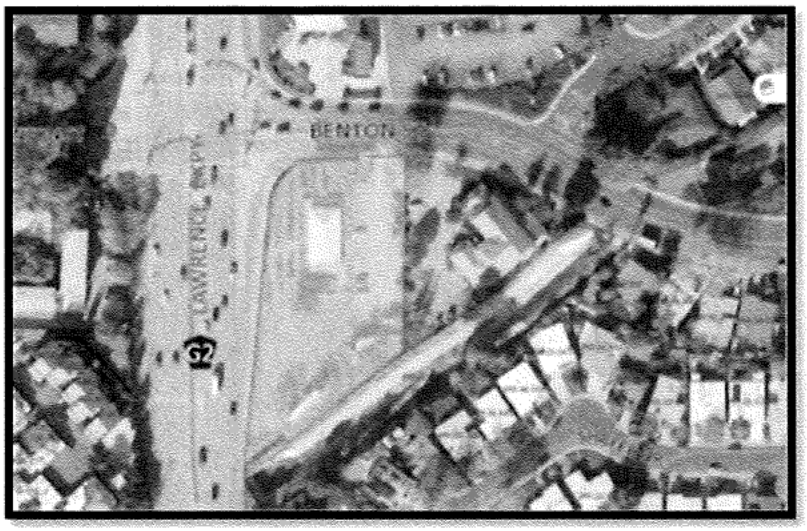
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Name Swapnil Harsule	
Address [redacted]	Santa Clara, CA
Email Address	
Comment: I strongly oppose this project. The location is not ideal for housing male adults with criminal background, substance abuse and mental illnesses. There is a 7/11 & liquor store next door. The shelter won't allow drinking and drug use, so this is where the clients will go to spread nuisance, in the neighborhood! I vote NO !	

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Name	Pomeroy Association
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	

No shelter
1 No additional funds provided to SC Police Department to handle the problems
Safety is an issue
2 Location is in proximity to 15 schools

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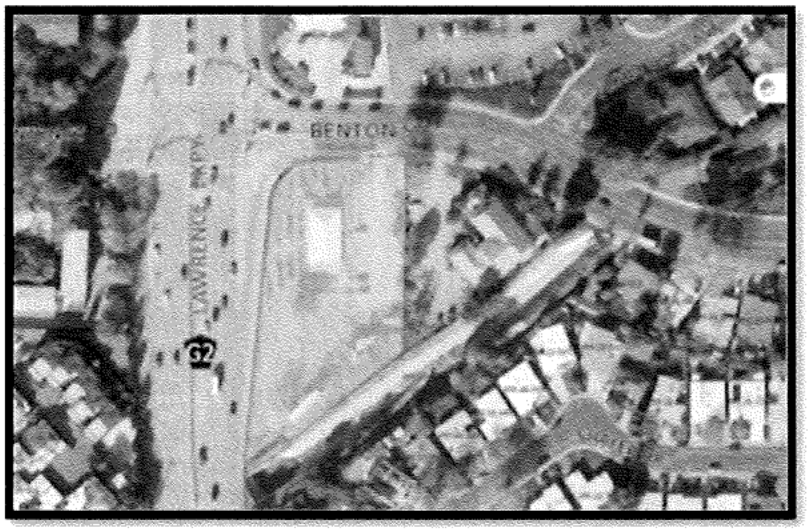
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Name Le Hui	Jacob Zhang
Address [redacted] Santa Clara CA 95051	
Email Address	
Comment: As a resident in this neighborhood, I strongly oppose this project. It jeopardizes the safety & security of our neighborhood. This is not a right location for homeless shelter. Don't repeat the mistake in Branham San Jose. I strongly oppose!	

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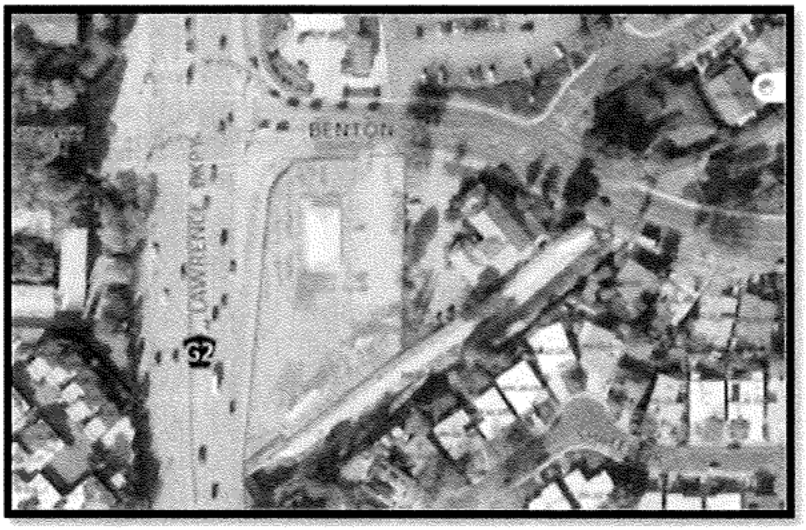
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Name VICKIE CRAWFORD	
Address [redacted] SANTA CLARA	
Email Address	
Comment: I AM ~~GRA~~ NOT IN FAVOR OF THIS LOCATION. DISSAPOINTED THERE WAS NO LARGER COMMUNICATION OF THIS PROPOSED PROJECT. FEELS LIKE THE CITY OFFICIALS ARE TRYING TO SNEAK THIS ALL BY. I BELIEVE THE RESIDENTS SHOULD BE VOTING ON WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR CITY. WE HAVE INTERIM HOUSING JUST GOING IN ON EL CAMINO AND LAWRENCE, IT'S TOO MUCH IN ONE AREA OF THE CITY. ADDITONALLY, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE HOMELESS IN SANTA CLARA WILL BE HOUSED SINCE THE LOCATION WILL BE OPEN TO ALL OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY. LET US VOTE!	

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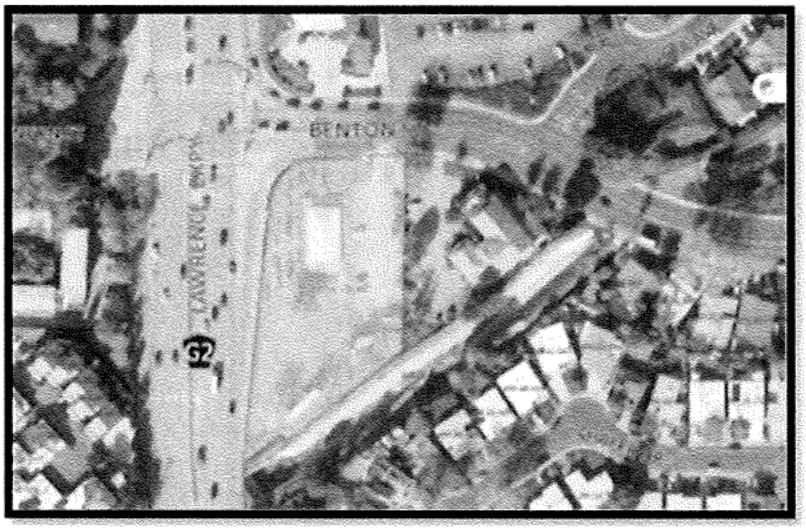
Name Alex Wang	Blair Yuan
Address [redacted] C 95051	
Email Address [redacted]	

Comment:
I strongly oppose and am against the proposed to build a shelter in this location. In the vincinity of schools and public parks, the safety of children will be jeopardized. Being next to the high-speed Lawrence expressway, I am concerned about the traffic incident rate which is already relatively higher than average at this intersection.

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This site could be a great case of needs and opportunities coming together in harmony. In July 2021, the City of Santa Clara's City Council asked City staff to find a site to house unhoused people. They wanted to apply for state funding that would be available for that use. Soon after, the 2022 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey reported that homelessness in Santa Clara increased by 35% from 2019 to 2022. Then, Santa Clara's Homelessness Task Force reported that Santa Clara does not have enough interim housing for unhoused people.
Around the same time, the County's Board of Supervisors asked County staff to look for County-owned land that could be used for interim housing. The site at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway was no longer needed for its original purpose. It is close to services and public transit, good conditions for people to stay while they rebuild their lives. The Board of Supervisors also approved a challenge grant program for interim housing, and LifeMoves responded with ideas.

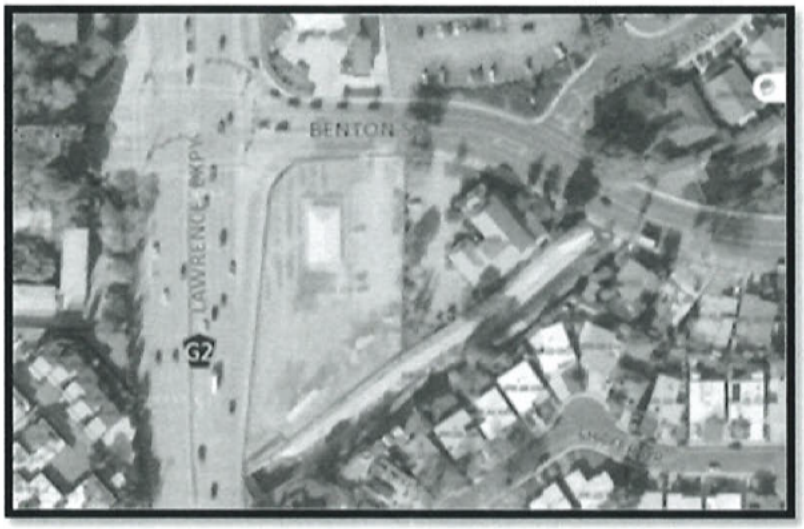
LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	Randy Lin
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara 95051
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	I ~~strongly~~ oppose the shelter location. This ~~is a~~ location is too close 15 schools with 10483 ppl. Building this shelter is really irresponsible for the safty of the children educated here and the neighbor here.

VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE: https://osh.sccgov.org/project-homekey-scc/benton
EMAIL US:
City Contact: Adam Marcus amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
County Contact: Consuelo Hernandez Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org
LifeMoves Contact: Marie Jackson mjackson@lifemoves.org

Community Meeting No. 3 – Thursday, March 9, 2023
Benton & Lawrence Expressway

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LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	Yang Jiao
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	

Comment:

I'm strongly opposed to this project. And here are several reasons:

1. ~~Th~~ Wrong location
Benton location is next to the 8-lane Lawrence Expressway. The enviroment characteristics are not conductive to rehabilitation and stabilization of life after living on the streets. It's dangerous for people with physical or mental issues. Also people live in this place have to cross ~~the~~ or walk along side the express way, puts themselves in danger
2. Unsafe for ~~th~~ the neighbor. The total police calls increased 2 times in milpitas where the homekey shelter starts to operate

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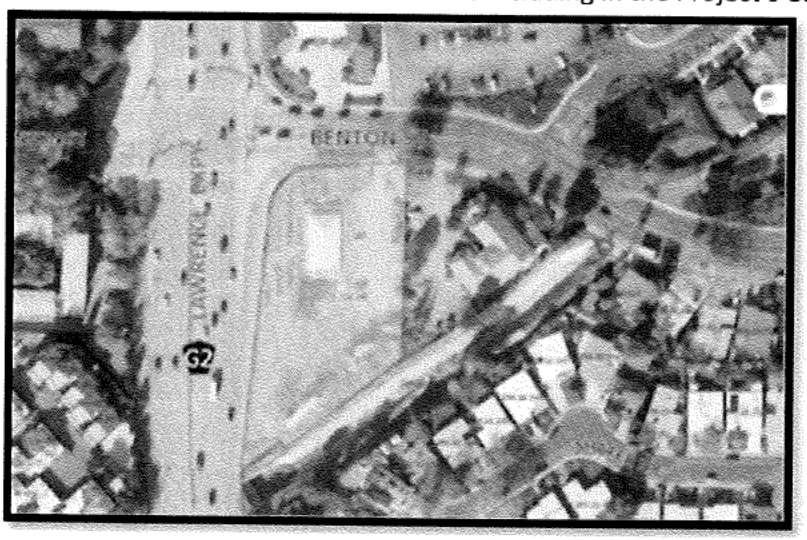
LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	LAN LUO
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	I strongly oppose the proposal of building a low-barrier shelter. As a concerned citizen and member of the community I feel this proposal poses a serious safety concern. The shelter in Milpitas has resulted in a significant increase in crime rates, including theft, drug use, and violent crime. This has put the safety of the residents and students in our community at risk.

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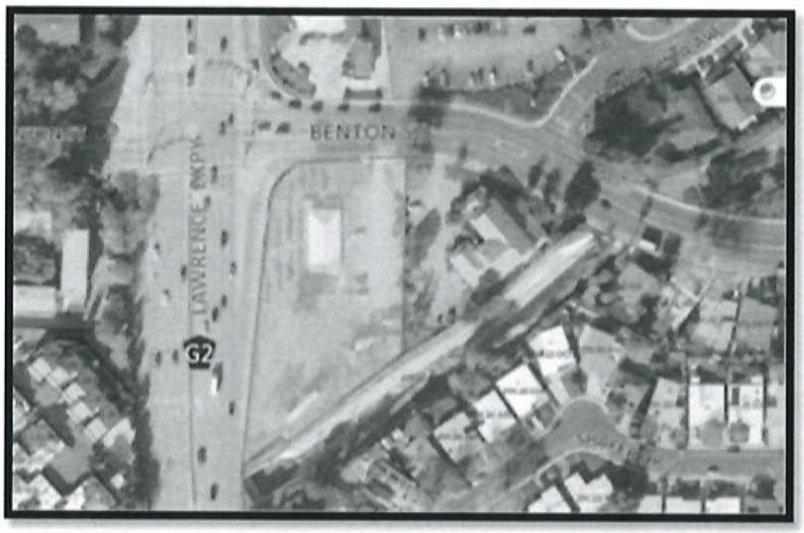
LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	Youyou Tan
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara 95051
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	I oppose this shelter. I ~~doubt~~ doubt the data that provided. ~~It~~ We need to know the provider of the data.

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Name	
Address	
Email Address	
Comment: Recall Supervison Ellenberg!!!	

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City Contact: Adam Marcus amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
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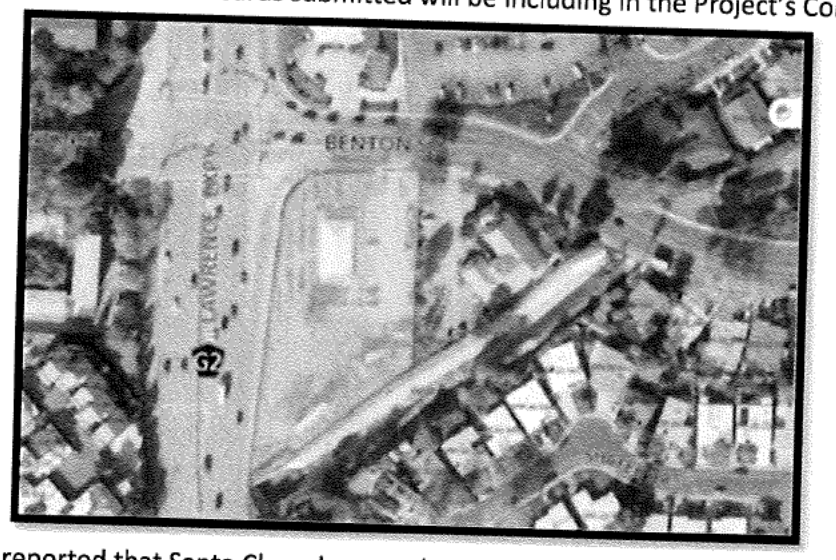
LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	Weixi Lin
Address	[redacted] Santa Clara
Email Address	[redacted]
Comment:	No to Benton Shelter. Not this location. Not any residential location!

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EMAIL US:
City Contact: Adam Marcus amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
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LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	Joshua Kim
Address	[redacted]
Email Add	
Comment	

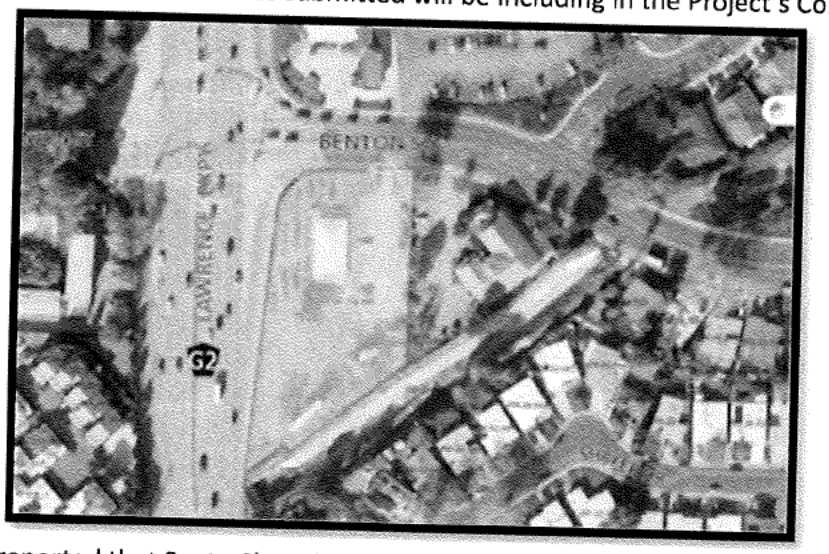
What is 'Estimated Cost' to build?
→ We can use it best used to reduce # of homeless issue.
→ You need disclosure exact #.
Support a project but Wrong location.

VISIT THE PROJECT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE: https://osh.sccgov.org/project-homekey-scc/benton
EMAIL US:
City Contact: Adam Marcus amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
County Contact: Consuelo Hernandez Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org
LifeMoves Contact: Marie Jackson mjackson@lifemoves.org

4/25

Community Meeting No. 3 – Thursday, March 9, 2023
Benton & Lawrence Expressway

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LiveMoves, in partnership with the Sobrato Foundation, is exploring the development of 80 – 120 units of emergency interim housing on the Benton and Lawrence site.

Name	Bonnie Nie
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	
Comment:	I strongly oppose the proposal of building a shelter on Lawrence & Benton !!!

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EMAIL US:
City Contact: Adam Marcus amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
County Contact: Consuelo Hernandez Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org
LifeMoves Contact: Marie Jackson mjackson@lifemoves.org

EMAIL RECEIVED BY COUNTY STAFF COVER PAGE

From:	Monica Bansal
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Monday, March 20, 2023 10:03:20 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)

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:	Nanxi Li
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] [IMPORTANT] Eight Reasons to Oppose Benton Shelter, with data
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:39:29 PM

Hi,

As a Santa Clara resident named Nanxi Li, I strongly object to the proposed Benton shelter, which I believe is a reckless and radical experiment. There are eight major reasons why I oppose this project and the chosen location.

Firstly, the low barrier housing will potentially allow criminals and addicts to occupy the shelter, and the city or police may not be able to remove problematic tenants from the site.

Secondly, the shelter poses a significant safety threat to the 11,000 students and families in the area, as evidenced by the striking crime statistics in Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites.

Thirdly, this would be the second shelter in the same neighborhood, which may lead to further issues.

Fourthly, the estimated high operational cost of $4.3M, and the doubling of construction costs in a similar project, casts doubt on the reliability of LifeMoves' promise.

Fifthly, the shortage of staff and licensed nurses is a major concern, as LifeMoves recommends only one vocational nurse for 200 unscreened homeless tenants, many of whom have serious mental health issues.

Sixthly, the location is far from public transit, grocery stores, and job opportunities.

Seventhly, the county has provided false and misleading information.

Lastly, over 300 community questions remain unanswered to date.

This project could take police resources away from the rest of the community and put all our lives in danger. Furthermore, it will lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. In a live poll conducted by the county, over 80% of more than 400 participants strongly opposed the Benton project.

I urge the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible, and I trust that you will take into account the overwhelming opposition from the community. Thank you for your attention.

Nanxi Li

From:	Connie Leung
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Steven Yu-Chuan Chou
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] [Please Read] Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Friday, March 17, 2023 11:21:19 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:	赵丹
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] A mom and santa clara resident strongly oppose to the homeless project at Benton/Lawrence location
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:05:30 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:	赵丹
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclara.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] A mom living in Santa Clara reject the emergency shelter at Benton and Lawrence
Date:	Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:38:21 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, 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 speak for the community members.
if you are a parent, for sure you want a safe environment for your kid to grow up, thanks.

--

Best regards,
Dan Zhao

From:	Alex Wang
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Against Benton Shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 3:09:21 PM

Hi,

I am a resident and a homeowner living less than half a mile away from the proposed shelter on Benton and Lawrence. I strongly oppose this plan due to the disregard for the safety of neighborhoods, elders, and children.

By building a shelter at a high-speed crossing, this plan will also increase the possibility of traffic incidents. I strongly encourage you to veto this proposal and bring back the safety and confidence of the community. Thanks.

Best Regards,

--
Alex Wang

From:	Ethan Gong
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] against benton shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:23:19 PM

Hi there! I'm really worried about something and I want to tell you about it. They want to turn Lawrence & Benton into another homeless shelter and that's not good for our community.

There's already a shelter for homeless people really close by, and we need to work on making our neighborhood better for everyone who lives here. We need more places like daycares, schools, parks, and houses for people to live in.

Turning Lawrence & Benton into a shelter could be really dangerous too. There's a lot of traffic on the street next to it, and it's not safe for people to be there. Plus, there's a playground and other fun things for kids nearby that might get taken away if they make the shelter there.

I also heard that the shelter will let in people who have some problems, like being sick or taking drugs or even being in jail before. That could be really dangerous for us and our kids who use the parks and schools nearby.

The plan is formed but didn't ask us what we thought or how we felt about it. That's not fair to us.

We need to make sure our neighborhood stays safe and happy for everyone who lives here. We should think of better ways to help homeless people instead of just making more shelters.

Best
Ethan

From:	Enhao Gong
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] against low-barrier shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:24:40 PM

I am writing to you today to share my extreme concerns about the plan of turning Lawrence & Benton into another homeless shelter. As a resident of the area, I am deeply worried about the potential negative impacts this plan will have on our community.

First and foremost, Bella Vista, which is only 0.5 miles away, is already being converted into a facility for the homeless. We need to invest more in daycares, schools, parks, and residential homes to improve the overall living standards in our area. Adding another homeless shelter will only exacerbate the existing problems.

Furthermore, a similar plan at White Oak Lane project was rejected in 2021 by the City of Santa Clara based on safety and other serious concerns. This location poses even more safety issues as it is right next to Lawrence Express Way with tons of traffic day and night. The potential risks and dangers that this poses to the local community are simply not worth it.

In addition, this plan will forfeit a playground, seasonal pumpkin patch, and Christmas tree shopping for kids of all ages. These recreational facilities are crucial for the healthy development of our children and should not be taken away from them.

From what the county shared, this plan has a "lower barrier entry," including people with physical or mental health issues, those released from jail, and drug addicts. Shelter residents can pose potential risks to the high-density residential areas and to users of parks, and kids in many daycares, schools, and children's playgrounds in this area. We cannot let the safety and well-being of our community be compromised.

Finally, I am deeply concerned about the lack of transparency and outreach efforts from the city. I only learned about this plan 2 weeks ago, and many others in the community are similarly unaware. The lack of consultation and communication with the local community is unacceptable.

In the last meeting, I joined the local community and shared many concerns. The concerns were shared loud and clear. This is the WRONG LOCATION! I urge you to consider the clear will from the local community, which is your responsibility to serve the Santa Clara residents not to just come up with a project to apply homekey money at cost of residents! We need to prioritize the safety and well-being of our community and invest in long-term solutions to address homelessness, rather than creating more problems!

Sincerely
Enhao

--
宫恩浩
Enhao Gong

From:	cuiping wang
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] As a local resident, I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence interim housing
Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 4:24:11 PM

Hello Offices

I am a local resident and living in Santa Clara county (San Juan Ave, 95051). I strongly oppose building 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 reconsider another location in a non-residential area.

Thanks

From:	zheng zhao
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] As a local resident, I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence interim housing
Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 3:28:33 PM

Hello all,

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 a non-residential area.

Thanks,
Joyce

From:	hawkeye lyuuu
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] As a local resident, I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence interim housing
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:46:19 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!
Haokai

From:	Puxiao Han
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] As a local resident, I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence interim housing
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:39:38 PM

Hi all,

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!

From:	Puxiao Han
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor Simitian
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] As a local resident, I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence interim housing
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:35:09 PM

Hi all,

As a local resident, I live less than 1.5 miles of the pumpkin patch of Benton/ Lawrence for more than 3 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. They will threat the safety of our family.

Please re-consider another location in non-residential area.

Thanks,
Puxiao

From:	Puxiao Han
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] As a local resident, I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence interim housing
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:27:54 PM

Hi all,

As a local resident, I live less than 1.5 miles of the pumpkin patch of Benton/ Lawrence for more than 3 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. They will threat the safety of our family.

Please re-consider another location in non-residential area.

Thanks,
Puxiao

From:	Xingwei Yang
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] As a local resident, I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 4:46:30 PM

I live less than 1.5 miles of the pumpkin patch of Benton/ Lawrence for more than 5 years. I strongly oppose building the interim housing in Benton/Lawrence, this is not a right location for the neighborhood, which will negatively impact all the nearby residents, students and facilities.

Please re-consider another location in a non-residential area.

Thanks
Xingwei

--
Sincerely Yours
Xingwei Yang
[redacted]

From:	Cui Cao
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] As a local resident, I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence interim housing
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 4:41:32 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
Cui Cao

From:	Kate Cao
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] As a local resident, I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence interim housing
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:05:02 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: Wu Wen
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Benton project - Request for future public hearings
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:36:07 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:	Safe Santa Clara
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; Safe Santa Clara; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Benton project - Second Open Letter
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 12:25:14 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: Yakov Vaysman
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Benton project
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:17:17 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: graypink
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Benton project
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 12:41:49 PM

Hi Consuelo,

Thanks for hosting the 1st community meeting and posting the recording and slides for the Benton&Lawrence project.

I have some questions and would appreciate it if you could respond.

1) I couldn't find the answers to the 300+ questions the attendees entered in chats during the meeting. You said that every question would be answered and provided to the public. Could you tell me how I can find the answers? If they are not available, when will it become available?

2) You mentioned in April, LifeMoves, city and county staff will report back on the input that you received from the community engagement, and the residents have an opportunity to provide feedback at a future city council and or Board of Supervisors meeting. Do you know the date, time and location of the meetings? If not, how can I get notifications of the meetings?

3) As a working mother with young kids, I am afraid it's really difficult for me to attend the next two meetings in person. I would like to request that the County also set up a zoom meeting for the in person meeting, so that people like me who need to take care of kids at home, can also participate, or at least listen in.

4) During the meeting, a lot of good questions were asked by the attendees (see following). Please provide responses to these questions as well. I resonate with all the concerns and am eager to know the answers.

1. Have you done any study about the impact of such a shelter in the adjacent communities? Please provide research/study on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood?
2. What other options were evaluated as potential sites especially away from schools and established single family communities?
3. From residents' feedback, increased problems on safety and security are expected when a shelter is introduced. What will be the steps to ensure the neighborhoods are safe and secure? Who will be funding and leading the effort?
4. Who will be making sure young kids and students are safe as you perhaps already know now there are more than 10 schools and countless daycare centers in the walking distance. Many students walk to school and young kids play at the parks, how do you protect them?
5. It was brought up several times that the site is highly dangerous as it's next to Lawrence. How do you ensure the safety of homeless people who have mental and drug issues?
6. How do you solve the potential problems on parking and traffic given that 80-120 units will be introduced to an already overcrowded neighborhood.

7. Suggestions on a better screening and rethinking solutions.

Thanks for reading my email. I look forward to your response.

Best regards,
LH

From: Yakov Vaysman
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Benton project
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:21:42 AM

L 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,
Jacob

From:	[redacted]
To:	Adam Marcus; Hernandez, Consuelo; Marie Jackson
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; Mayor & City Council
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Benton shelter statement 3/1 comment card
Date:	Friday, March 3, 2023 9:08:05 PM

All,
Thank you for answering the questions presented at the 2/13 Zoom meeting at the 3/1 in-person meeting.
Below is the statement that I was prepared to present at the in-person meeting on 3/1.
I chose to email instead as I didn't want to be a participant of the unruly & divisive atmosphere.
~~~~~~

I was born in San Jose long before many of the folks in this room were even a twinkle in their parent's eyes & I have witnessed many changes to the landscape of our county over the years.

I am a homeowner & taxpayer of Santa Clara since the 1970's.

Since the 1990's, I have lived across the street from the proposed **low barrier** shelter site & I can see the property from my living room.

I have made my peace with no longer buying my Christmas tree from the discounted area in the back of the lot or no longer planning weekend gatherings at my condo due to the church parking overflowing onto Flora Vista. Access will be difficult if not impossible for my older mobility impaired friends & family that will have to park down by DMV since our condos have only 3 designated guest parking spots.

I am baffled as to why the county chose a neighborhood of mainly families & seniors in an area that already has Bella Vista Inn, a short 2 blocks away. Bella Vista Inn Phase I includes 64 units & Santa Clara Gardens Phase II will add another 120 units coming next year. Is the Benton property even zoned for an interim shelter?
~~~~~~

I am also really baffled as to why neither the County nor City elected officials seem to have no voice in the matter, but instead have put employees for the various entities on the firing line.

I respectfully propose an alternate housing solution of affordable housing, like rent to own which may include teachers, seniors, tech & service workers.

Thank you,
Caprice Silva
[redacted]

From: Debbie Dempsey
To: sjain@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing Site
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:13:02 PM
Attachments: March 12, 2023 letter re Benton-Lawrence.pdf

I adamantly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton and Lawrence Expressway for the reasons set forth in my attached letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dempsey

From:	Debbie Dempsey
To:	kpark@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing Site
Date:	Monday, March 13, 2023 12:45:36 PM
Attachments:	March 12, 2023 letter re Benton-Lawrence.pdf

I adamantly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton and Lawrence Expressway for the reasons set forth in my attached letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dempsey

From: Debbie Dempsey
To: Supervisor.Lee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing Site
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 12:32:15 PM
Attachments: March 12, 2023 letter re Benton-Lawrence.pdf

I adamantly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway for the reasons set forth in my attached letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dempsey

From:	Debbie Dempsey
To:	mayorandCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Hernandez, Consuelo; Police
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing Site
Date:	Sunday, March 12, 2023 3:40:36 PM
Attachments:	March 12, 2023 letter re Benton-Lawrence.pdf

I am re-sending to correct e-mail addresses on prior message

Attached please find my letter regarding the proposed Benton/Lawrence “Housing Site”

Sincerely,

Deborah Dempsey
[redacted]
Santa Clara
mobile: [redacted]

From:	Debbie Dempsey
To:	mayorAndCouncil@santaclara.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclara.gov; khardy@santaclara.gov; abecker@santaclara.gov; sjain@santaclara.gov
Cc:	Hernandez, Consuelo; Police
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing Site
Date:	Sunday, March 12, 2023 3:35:00 PM
Attachments:	March 12, 2023 letter re Benton-Lawrence.pdf

Attached please find my letter regarding the proposed Benton/Lawrence "Housing Site"

Sincerely,

Deborah Dempsey
[redacted]
Santa Clara
mobile: [redacted]

From: Debbie Dempsey
To: abecker@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing Site
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 1:15:21 PM
Attachments: March 12, 2023 letter re Benton-Lawrence.pdf

I adamantly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton and Lawrence Expressway for the reasons set forth in my attached letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dempsey

From: Cecil Mossotti
To: mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Adam Marcus
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 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]
Santa Clara

From:	Asha DuMonthier
To:	mjackson@lifemoves.org; Hernandez, Consuelo; Adam Marcus
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Comment on interim housing project meeting #4
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:13:29 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:	HARSHA VASHISHT
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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:	Jitesh Jain
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:40:37 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,
Jitesh Jain, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From:	Rachna Lal
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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 Sunnyvale Birdland Neighborhood

From:	Santosh Singh
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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:
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    - 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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- 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:	Pushpanjali S
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Monday, March 20, 2023 3:06:50 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.
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    - 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. T**he 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:
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    - 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)?

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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.

Regards,
Pushpanjali S,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From:	Shaun Shroff
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Monday, March 20, 2023 9:50:57 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.
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    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

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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:
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    - 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

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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:	Divyashree Ramesh
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Friday, March 17, 2023 3:00:46 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:	Gautam K
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Tuesday, March 21, 2023 7:21:54 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,
Gautam Kulkarni, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From:	saihua lin
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] concern over building the shelter at Benton&Lawrence
Date:	Tuesday, February 28, 2023 9:50:49 PM

Dear All

I'm the Santa Clara resident who is living near Benton with two small kids. My home address is 250 manzanita ave, santa clara. I strongly oppose building the low barrier homeless shelter close to my home. I have joined last time's zoom meeting, the choice is lacking consideration as there are lots of schools nearby. I voice up here to let you know that majority of people are opposing this location. We'd like to protect our children and history will remember those make bad decisions today. Please think carefully and thoroughly.

Saihua

From:	yeru liu
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Cc:	kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Concerns about proposed shelter at Lawrence and Benton
Date:	Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:12:41 PM

Dear officer,

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the proposed shelter for drug users and criminals that is planned to be built at Lawrence and Benton. As a resident of this neighborhood and a parent of a young child, I am extremely worried about the potential safety risks that such a facility could pose to my family and the community as a whole.

It is well-known that drug addiction and criminal activity often go hand in hand, and I fear that this shelter will attract more of these elements to our already vulnerable neighborhood. The presence of drug users and criminals so close to my home and my child's school could greatly compromise our safety and quality of life.

I understand that the goal of this shelter is to provide a safe space for those in need of help, and I support efforts to help those struggling with addiction and other issues. However, I strongly believe that this location is not suitable for such a facility. There are many other areas in the county that are better equipped to handle the challenges that come with providing services to this population.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and find a more appropriate location for this shelter. The safety and well-being of our community must be the top priority, and I hope that you will take my concerns into consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Yeru Liu

From:	Shu C
To:	Shu C
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Concerns about the benton&lawrence shelter proposal
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:20:59 PM

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:	Rui Diao
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Cc:	kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclara.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Concerns and Requests Regarding Proposed Shelter for Unhoused People in Santa Clara
Date:	Tuesday, February 28, 2023 7:14:50 PM

Dear Supervisors of Santa Clara County,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed shelter for unhoused people at the corner of Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara. While I understand the need for such a shelter, I am extremely concerned about the potential impact on the safety and well-being of our community.

As a resident of the area, I am particularly concerned about the fact that the shelter would accept people with criminal histories and drug issues without any screening process. The shelter's location, which is just a 10-minute walk from several schools, including the one my daughter attends, is also highly problematic. I believe that the proposed low-barrier approach to the shelter will inevitably lead to an increase in criminal activity and drug use in the area, which will negatively impact the safety and well-being of our community.

Furthermore, I am concerned that not many people in the community are aware of this plan, and that there has not been enough opportunity for residents to express their concerns. Therefore, I request that the following measures be taken:

- Develop a comprehensive outreach strategy to ensure that as many residents as possible are aware of the proposed shelter and the community hearing.
- Consider alternative locations for the shelter that are not in such close proximity to schools and residential areas.
- Conduct a thorough screening process for all individuals seeking to stay at the shelter, including background checks and drug tests.
- Establish a security plan that includes regular patrols by law enforcement and on-site security personnel to ensure the safety of residents and the surrounding community.
- Provide resources and support for residents with criminal histories and drug issues, including counseling and job training programs, to help them successfully reintegrate into society.

I urge you to take my concerns and requests seriously and to work towards a solution that prioritizes the safety and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rui Diao

From: Quinn Perfetto
To: amarcus@santaclara.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kpark@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Expression of opposition for the LiveMoves facility on Benton and Lawrence
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 7:13:54 PM

Hello city contact people and city council,

I wanted to express my general opposition for the proposed LiveMoves facility on Benton and Lawrence aswell as give feedback on how the city handled the community meeting on wednesday march 1.

With regards to the life moves facility:

I understand that choosing the location of a homeless shelter without incurring opposition is impossible, but I really think that if you objectively evaluate the proposed location you'll find that it truly is unsuitable. It is < 1 mile from so many locations that house children: Pomeroy elementary, Monticello academy, happy scholars daycare, Laurelwood elementary school, stratford school, santa clara high school, and the Neighborhood Christian Center. On top of all that, it directly abuts a residential neighbourhood, is located on a very busy intersection, and just across that busy intersection is a liquor store. If you consider the 2035 white oak location that was rejected in 2021 (source), this location is strictly worse: It's on a busier intersection and closer to more schools. If that facility was rejected, then it would make no sense to approve this one.

WIth regards to the march 1 meeting:

I actually felt the first half of the meeting was really productive and insightful. The city accurately categorized the complaints and had a great overview of the project information. I was however very disappointed with how the city "addressed" the concerns. I'm going from memory here, but some of the most notably bad arguments I heard were:

- Residents were concerned that this shelter is very close to the bella vista one. The city's response was: the bella vista site is only going to be interim housing for 2 years, then afterwards it will become longer term. That is not any reason to place two homeless shelters right next to each other, by that logic we should just encircle the entire area in homeless shelters of differing stay lengths

- Residents were concerned about lowered property values. The city's response was: the county assessor has assured us you won't lose property values. The county assessor's office has absolutely 0 bearing on home prices, home prices are entirely decided by the buyer, and countless studies have been done which all conclude they have negative value (source). I'll be honest: home values is a crumby reason not to build a homeless shelter, however the city loses major credibility in my (and probably my neighbour's) eyes by pushing this argument based on the county assessor's office.

- Residents were concerned about the low barrier of entry. The city's response was to cite the mountain view location and how great that worked out. The problem is, the mountain view location is tailored towards families (source) and is located in a very industrial area with only a single small prep school within a mile of it. These two locations and admission criteria are totally apples and oranges.

Then came the "Q&A" section where the speaker literally refused to answer any questions. The city council woman started quoting the bible, which I felt was extremely inappropriate, we have separation of church and state for a reason.

In summary: I oppose the location of this homeless shelter and i am disappointed about the handling by the city. If you look at this situation objectively you'll see that this shelter needs to be moved to a different location.

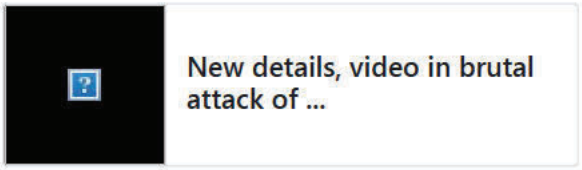
From: [redacted]
To: MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Cc: Adam Marcus; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fear of the KNOWN: Firm "No" to any low entry barrier homeless shelters near high density neighborhoods like Lawrence/Benton
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:26:33 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? I have lived in San Francisco and seen how bad things are over there due to homeless shelters. These people dont stay in the shelters all the time and are roaming the streets 90% of the time. Currently we see 1 or 2 homeless persons rarely in the streets and with this shelter there will be 100s of folks concentrated in this neighborhood roaming and creating trouble. The shelter cannot handle 100s of these folks with just 1 attendant , seems like an impossible task with criminals being housed in the shelter.

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



Here is another example from a twitter thread by Andrej Karpathy who is the founding member of OpenAI talk about the safety issues due to these homeless folks in San Francisco
https://twitter.com/karpathy/status/1644782325857927174?s=20

"We moved out of San Francisco to Menlo Park a year ago after two meth addicts broke into our house while we were home and robbed us. They are both free now. The police who arrested them -- and were later forced to release them by the DA -- said these criminals were "frequent flyers." We didn't want to leave SF -- we love it there -- but we have a young kid and it seemed irresponsible to stay in a place where drug addicts commit home invasions to the point where they are called "frequent flyers."

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,
Bala K
Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From:	Pushpanjali S
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Adam Marcus; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Fear of the KNOWN: Firm "No" to any low entry barrier homeless shelters near residential neighborhoods like Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:34:18 AM
Attachments:	Working together in solving homelessness crisis along with improving safety 4.4.23.pdf

Hi All,

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,

Anjali
Wood duck Ave, Santa Clara
(Lawrence/Benton neighbourhood)

From:	Anu & Amol
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Adam Marcus; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Fear of the KNOWN: Firm "No" to any low entry barrier homeless shelters near high density neighborhoods like Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:37:13 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,

Anu Joshi

Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Belinda Song
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback for the Proposed Benton Street low barrier shelter
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 12:53:38 PM
Attachments: Google review MTV site.PNG

Hi Ms. Hernandez,

Good afternoon! My name is Ci Song, I am a resident of Santa Clara City. I live at [redacted] Santa Clara, CA 95051.

I strongly oppose building the low barrier homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton. I will explain my response. Please seriously consider my concerns and requests, and reply back with detailed answers. Thanks!

I went to the community meeting yesterday and listened to your presentation about the program. I understand it is your job to help with solving the homeless issue in the county. We will support the work that is effective and reasonable. We hope to give our help by seeing a better plan that can really work. The current plan of building a low barrier shelter on Benton Street is really hurting the feelings of most people in the community, all my neighbours are strongly opposing this current plan. If the county can reconsider other locations and plans, our community really hopes to give our love and help!

Concerns:
1. The location is very close to 24 schools and daycares. (I live right across the street from John Sutter Elementary School, we have around 300-400 students in this school which is only less than 1 miles walk away from the proposed shelter.) A lot of the kids (aged 3 - 9) walk to school in our community. How will the city/county make sure students who go to this school will not be kidnapped/harassed by people staying at the shelter going around in the daytime?) Does the city really hope to see increasing cases of missing children?

2. I carefully read the proposal, and see there is already another shelter Bella Vista Inn within 0.5 mile distance from this new proposal. Why do we need two shelters at almost the same location? Is it a clustering of shelters to attract more homeless to the city of Santa Clara and try to get rid of the homeless people from other cities? Do you have a headcount of how many homeless people are in the City of Santa Clara?

3. There is no research showing that the LifeMovers's MTV shelter succeeds in reducing the homeless population, and improving the homeless mental issues. I read the google review for that site. I attached the review. People who really need help don't even want to live there. Why do the city believe this shelter can help with the homeless situation if homeless people do not want to live here?

4. Are there any plans for people who lost their eligibility to live in that shelter? When homeless people (low barrier shelter might attract more drug dealers, people with mental issues) get kicked out from this facility, where should they go? If there is no plan for them after they are kicked out, they will just stay around the community, and break into homes or parks around.

Requests:
1. I request you provide the date, time and location of the April meetings among livemovers,

city and county staff to discuss community feedback. And I request the information to be shared to the public. We hope as community members we can join or hear the meeting in person.

2. I request you provide a solid plan for the actions to ensure the neighborhoods are safe and secure. Will the city fund neighbood with a home security system?

3. I request you provide a detailed plan that shows how you are making sure young kids and students are safe walking to the 24 schools/daycares and back home after school. And who will protect the
young kids playing around in the community. I request you provide the detailed number of total students/kids attending school within 1.5 - 2 miles distance. (1.5 - 2 miles are still walkable, it does not make sense only to count schools in 3/4 mile)

4. I request to share how the city will address the increased police fundings and numbers needs, given there would be a tremendous increase in the population. Will the city hire more police, doctors, and
Emergency response workforce?

As a community member, I really like this lovely city. People who live in this community work hard, are very friendly and nice to each other.

We are not saying the city/county should not build shelters for people who need help, we just do not want to see the low barrier shelters built in our community. There are lots of other locations in Santa
Clara County that need more shelters. For example, the Great America Park (5099 Stars and Stripes Dr, Santa Clara, CA 95054) announced in the news, should we reconsider another place for the shelter?

Thanks!
Ci Song

From: Mary Pisapia-Sinn
To: mjackson@lifemoves.org; Hernandez, Consuelo; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback from Lawrence Expressway/Benton Meeting
Date: Monday, February 13, 2023 9:29:28 PM

Good Evening,

I appreciate your efforts to find housing for all individuals and to listen to community feedback. It was very challenging to even ask informative questions with the format that was selected for this evening's Zoom presentation. As someone who went into the meeting with an open mind, I was a bit concerned with the lack of unique data and information for our specific community. I would have loved to hear how these concerns were going to be met. I waited at the end of the meeting but had no way to tell you that I needed to see the last slide again to get your email (luckily a neighbor had taken a picture). It may be helpful to have that information in a QR code or linked in chat.

I would like to hear more specific details about the placement of this facility and the routes that are typically used by children for schools, playgrounds, the gymnastic center, and the pool. The proximity to schools and playgrounds were not addressed in the meeting. Our community loves to walk and can be frequently seen all over the neighborhood in the afternoons and evenings.

As a neighbor to the Laurelwood Cabana Club, that has a large number of children walking to the facility and waiting for parent pick-ups outside, I am concerned that this facility was not mentioned or brought up since it is 0.6 of a mile away and on the path to El Camino (VTA)

The low barrier entry to this facility was concerning because of the residential nature of our community. In addition, I would hope that someone would take seriously the need for onsite parking. I am curious if a representative from the Santa Clara City could provide some alternatives for the Tree lot and pumpkin patch to allow for a more open discussion.

Lastly, I would love for the county to look at other projects and report back what the community has said after they have been built. Have there been problems with trash? Has there been an increase with crime? What have those projects looked like a year after completion?

Thanks so much for asking for our feedback and I look forward to another informative meeting (preferably on Zoom)
Mary Pisapia-Sinn

From: Julia Okeefe
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Project Homekey on Benton
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 4:15:16 PM

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Julia Okeefe** <[redacted]
Date: Fri, Mar 10, 2023 at 3:38 PM
Subject: Project Homekey on Benton
To: <consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.or>

Dear Consuelo,
Thank you so much for moderating the community meeting last evening. It is not easy, and your composure and even-handedness was remarkable.

I did not have a chance to speak, but I would like to make a few comments.
First of all, I think the project has lots of potential, but the management will be key. I am not clear on how one would apply and be selected for the transitional housing. I know the housing is neither jail nor hospital, but how does the manager of the project ensure that an applicant is the right fit? If a resident is unable to abide by the rules of Homekey, what will the procedures be?

I also think some residents might be confused by the stereotype of a "shelter," meaning the 4:30-7:00 a.m. dormitory style, rather than the transitional model of providing a home for some months. Transitional housing seems to me one of the most humane and effective tools available: a place to call one's own, a place where resources and help are offered and available, a place to rest and regroup after the trauma of being unhoused. Some residents of the area near Benton seem to believe that a transitional housing unit will generate more unhoused people wandering the neighborhood rather than fewer.

What is a "low barrier?"
How many stories are you projecting for the housing?
How might neighborhood incidents, such as resident confrontation by neighbors or encounters with school children, be handled?

I am just beginning to look at the resources you introduced last evening, but I wanted to say thank you before the week ends. I am so happy to have evidence of competent and dedicated government staff and hope for some partial solutions to the crisis of unhoused citizens.

Thanks again.
Julia O'Keefe
[redacted] Santa Clara, CA 95050

From: Bay One Limo Shaila
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I oppose building another homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton location .....
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:43:14 AM

Hi 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
408-506-5052
www.bayonelimo.com

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

From:	I S Gill
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose building another homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton location .....
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:45:11 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
Cell: 408-571-9311
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Website: www.baystarlimo net



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

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From: Huan Li
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I oppose the construction of the shelter at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 8:37:27 PM

Dear Council Member,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway. While I understand the importance of helping homeless people, I believe that there are better ways to achieve this goal than by building this shelter in our neighborhood.

Firstly, the proposed location is entirely wrong. The shelter is designed with low barriers that admit people with prior criminal records and ongoing drug abuse. This is a major safety concern for our community, especially since there are several elementary schools and parks in the vicinity. I fear that the safety of young children in the area will be compromised.

Secondly, there is already a homeless care facility under construction half a mile away. Why do we need another one so close to an already vulnerable area? Instead of building another shelter, this location would be better suited for permanent housing.

I urge you to vote NO and seek alternative solutions to help homeless people. Building a shelter in our neighborhood is definitely not the answer, and I hope that you will take my concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,
Huan Li

From:	saihua lin
To:	mjackson@lifemoves.org ; Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the project at this location
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:01:35 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: Eric Kyungwoo Sung
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 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:	Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:40:57 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: Adele Chen
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 4:45:39 PM

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 of quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks, and a sprawling neighborhood of single-family homes, apartments, and 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 a 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 being 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, lower air quality, and proximity to a 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 the 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,
Lan Chen

From:	Jui Hui Lin
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:42:12 AM

Dear 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 several 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 and elderly citizens spend their retirement days in the communities.

The county has clearly indicated that this shelter will 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, we strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent and 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,
Julia Huang

From:	Vivian Lee
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 8:55:30 PM

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,

Hsiangyun Lee

From: Rui Liang
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:17:31 PM

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.

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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.
--
Best Regards,

Rui Liang

From:	Zoey Long
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:09:00 PM

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.

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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,

Juexuan Long

From:	Ran Duan
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:08:20 PM

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.

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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,

Ran Duan

From:	Jessica Wong
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Monday, March 6, 2023 8:49:40 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,
Jessica Wong

From:	Jane Ma
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Sunday, March 5, 2023 10:14:09 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

As a City of Santa Clara resident for over a decade, 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 several elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. **My children walk to those schools every day**. 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,

Jane

From:	Feng Shao
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Sunday, March 5, 2023 10:13:14 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

As a City of Santa Clara resident for over a decade, 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 several elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. **My children walk to those schools every day**. 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,

Feng

From:	Shen Yu
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; abecker@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:50:42 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 being 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 isavailable, 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,
Shen

From:	Xiaoyun Wang
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; abecker@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:16:32 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.

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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,
Xiaoyun Wang

From:	Liya Leah Ye
To:	Liya Leah Ye
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:00:23 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.

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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,

Liya (Leah) Ye
[redacted]

From: Robert Vu
To: Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:20:28 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: Henry L
To: Henry L
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I say NO to Benton/Lawrence shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 3:57:29 PM

Dear elected / appointed officials, LifeMoves executives:

Please reconsider the Benton/Lawrence location. Based on publicly accessible research and data, re-integrating the homeless population with society does NOT benefit to any meaningful extent from a shelter being located in a residential community. This location is at the heart of residential / school areas. I won't blame people when they say any violent crimes against kids by a homeless individual would be blood on your hands.

I believe you guys have more than enough resources and data access to find alternative locations that will do the job of helping the homeless without putting a community in harm's way.

Speaking of ending the homeless crisis, if you are really serious about the issue you cannot ignore the big picture. Building more shelters has always failed to reduce the number of people on the street. That is just so crystal clear to see. While the number of homeless people hits a record as we speak, many of the existing homeless care facilities continue to have very low occupancy rates. There are a long list of solutions/services that cannot be after-thought, or skipped entirely right after you put a roof over their head. I do not see any hint of a comprehensive approach to address the homeless crisis. Against that backdrop, the effort to build the Benton shelter does seem rushed, disingenuous and should I say, a bit "convenient" after White Oak Lane was rejected in 2021?

If any of you would refuse to open your arms to a shelter like this where you live or where you kids, your grandkids go to school, I'm afraid that would be the very definition of NIMBY. If you do welcome a shelter near your home, that's very noble of you, but the safety concerns are still very real no matter where you stand.

Please reconsider.

Thanks,
Henry

From:	Joyce Huang
To:	khardy
Cc:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence homeless shelter as a local resident
Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:57:04 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.

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.

--
Best regards,

Yulin Huang

From: Joyce Huang
To: kpark@santaclaraca.gov
Cc: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence homeless shelter as a local resident
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:54:59 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.

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.

--
Best regards,

Yulin Huang

From:	Joyce Huang
To:	Supervisor.Lee
Cc:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence homeless shelter as a local resident
Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:51:31 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.

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.

--
Best regards,

Yulin Huang

From: Joyce Huang
To: Ellenberg, Supervisor
Cc: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence homeless shelter as a local resident
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:50:31 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.

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.

--
Best regards,

Yulin Huang

From: Joyce Huang
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence homeless shelter as a local resident
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:49:33 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.

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.

--
Best regards,

Yulin Huang

From: Joyce Huang
To: mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Cc: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose Benton/Lawrence homeless shelter as a local resident
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:58:02 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.

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.

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Best regards,

Yulin Huang

From:	L H
To:	Adam Marcus; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; patrick@frazierhealthcare.com; joestockwell@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the Benton project
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:05:35 PM

Elected City and County Officials and LifeMoves Leaders,

I am writing this email to express my strong opposition to the interim housing project at the intersection of Benton and Lawrence.

I am a resident of the City of Santa Clara and live 1000 ft away from the proposed site and 2000 ft away from Bella Vista Inn (another shelter in Santa Clara). For the past three weeks, I have been following this project closely.

I oppose to this project for the following reasons:

1. **It is a wrong proposal to build a low barrier shelter in a residential area.** Building a shelter with “the more challenging elements of the population” risks everyone’s safety, especially in a high density populated neighborhood with countless schools and daycares.
2. **It is a wrong proposal to build two shelters within 0.5 mile in the same neighborhood.** This area, with two large shelters in close vicinity, will become a hotbed for crimes and substance abuses. This will have significant negative impacts on the overall well-being of our neighborhood and the wider Santa Clara community over time.
3. **It is a wrong proposal to build a shelter near a dangerous intersection.** The Benton site is not a safe location for unhoused individuals due to its proximity to a particularly dangerous intersection. The crossing at Lawrence on Benton is a high-risk area, with a red light duration of 2 minutes and 30 seconds. For those struggling with addiction or mental illness, waiting for such a long time to cross a 9-lane expressway could pose a significant danger. The possibility of impatience leading to risky behavior is concerning, particularly given the high speed limit of 50 MPH on Lawrence. I drive across this intersection multiple times every weekday, however, I have made an effort to avoid walking across it for the past 8 years.
4. **It is a wrong proposal to build a shelter near a liquor store.** Directly across from the Benton site, there is a liquor store that raises additional concerns related to safety. The Mountain View site at 2556 Leghorn St and the Milpitas site at 1000 Hillview Ct have both had multiple incidents reported involving alcohol use. The presence of a nearby liquor store only exacerbates these safety concerns, making the situation potentially even more hazardous.

In the meantime, I am deeply disappointed by the County and LifeMoves' disregard for our community's concerns and safety. Despite the clear opposition from our residents, the County and LifeMoves are pushing ahead with this project without taking our comments and concerns.

During a Milpitas Council meeting on Aug 2022 (https://www.youtube.com/live/8BR0sffdNLg?feature=share&t=9458), the Police Chief presented data indicating that the number of police calls in the area around a similar interim/permanent housing project (1000 Hillview Ct, Milpitas) had drastically increased. Additionally, the Mayor of Milpitas reported that tenants were leaving and businesses were relocating due to the high number of crime incidents. **This proves our concern on safety is valid and by no means should be ignored.**

Ms. Consuelo was in the Milpitas meeting. **I am disappointed that, Ms. Consuelo, you have not been transparent and honest with the public and instead, have sugar-coated the project with Brian Greenberg from LifeMoves.**

I appreciate the good intentions behind this project, but I believe there are better solutions that can be

developed to address this issue in a way that works for everyone. Rather than building the housing project in residential areas, a more practical approach would be to construct interim/permanent housing in non-residential areas with shuttle services and onsite amenities. This approach can effectively address the housing needs of unhoused individuals while minimizing negative impacts on the community. It's worth noting that many unhoused individuals own cars, which I believe is why the site plan has 80 parking spaces at Benton.

I urge you to vote against this project and take immediate action to halt its progress.

Thanks for your time reading this email.

Regards,

Santa Clara resident, LH

From:	family Wu
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 4:58:05 PM

Hi All,

I strongly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway.

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,
Family Wu

From:	Yuki Li
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:54:38 PM

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

I am a Santa Clara County resident, voter, tax payer and mother of a 5 year old and 8 year old both going to a nearby school. I am deeply concerned about the safety risk this project will expose the neighborhood to!

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway. This has aroused tremendous community concern not only in the neighborhood but also among the entire Santa Clara County residents.

Where are the benefits of bringing a homeless shelter deep into a residential area? This is going to put the 7000+ students within a 1-mile radius at a huge safety risk and causing good business fleeting the area!

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. I**n 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.

L**ast 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.

Thank you for your consideration!

Shi Li

From: (null) (null)
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I STRONGLY OPPOSE the new shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:33:35 PM

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

Meredith

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Monica Bansal
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Cc:	gopi76s@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I Strongly Oppose the Proposed Shelter in Lawrence and Benton
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:59:48 PM

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 across the street from my house, AND 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.

MY KIDS 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. It would also be incredibly dangerous to the shelter residents.
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. Food facilities can also be accommodated.
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.

Data from Shelters in Milpitas show significant increase to crime and services needed to surrounding areas.
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,

Monica Bansal-Mother of small school children
Arya & Raina Shubhakar -9 years old-walk to Laurelwood elementary
Gopinath Shubhakar-Loving Father

From: Jing Zheng
To: Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Saturday, March 11, 2023 8:00:57 PM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

As a resident living nearby the proposed homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway, I am writing to express my concerns about the proposal.

While I agree that people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, I strongly oppose the location of the proposed shelter for several reasons.

Firstly, the site is located within walking distance of several elementary schools, daycares, public parks, and a residential neighborhood consisting of single-family homes, apartments, and senior homes. This location is frequented by families with young children, students, and senior citizens. The county has indicated that the shelter will admit individuals with prior criminal backgrounds, drug abuse, and mental health issues. While it is admirable to help those in need, I believe that this proposal shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.

Secondly, the proposed site is situated in a densely populated residential area and is adjacent to a section of Lawrence Expressway that is 2-way, 8-lane with a tremendous amount of weekday traffic. This environment, including loud, continuous noise, resultant lower air quality, and proximity to a high volume of vehicle traffic, is not conducive to rehabilitation and stabilization of life after living on the street.

Thirdly, the county owns a number of parcels further away from residential areas, and there are successful examples of homeless shelters in non-residential areas. These areas provide more space, enabling more space allocation per unhoused individual compared to the 4-story, container-like tiny rooms for individuals and couples proposed for the Benton site.

Lastly, research shows that a homeless shelter inevitably brings negative impacts onto the surrounding neighborhood, including a rise in crime rates and a fall in property market value. The county has recently converted the previous Bella Vista Inn into a homeless care facility this year, which is located barely half a mile away from the Benton/Lawrence location. It is unfair and unthoughtful to subject communities in the Lawrence/El Camino Real area to another homeless shelter.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to vote against any upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Jing Zheng

From:	Guilan Gao
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:22:18 PM

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 isavailable, 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.

From:	Guilan Gao
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:21:46 PM

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 isavailable, 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.

From:	Ray Leon
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:18:19 PM

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 isavailable, 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.

From:	Diane C. Avila
To:	Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I STRONGLY OPPOSE the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Monday, March 6, 2023 8:52:12 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

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

I live off Benton and Live Oak, have been in Santa Clara for 45 years. I am writing to express my STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway. I'm also disappointed that I was only notified of this by a flyer left at my home volunteers and not the city.

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. I personally would not feel comfortable going for a walk in my neighborhood, nor would I want my parents going for a walk.

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 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.

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.

Best Regards,
Diane

Diane C. Avila, CPA
Manager

Crawford Pimentel Corporation
Certified Public Accountants
Serving Silicon Valley & beyond for over 40 years

1550 The Alameda, Suite 211, San Jose, CA 95126
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From:	Erin Garrido
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Sunday, March 12, 2023 4:31:40 PM

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,

Erin Garrido
[redacted]
Santa Clara, CA 95051

From: Yi Zhang
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose to build interim housing in Benton/Lawrence
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:26:23 PM

As a local resident, I have lived in the birdland community for over 7 years and I like this community a lot.
I strongly oppose to build the interim housing in Benton/Lawrence. This is a wrong location for the neighborhood as well as for the unhoused people. This proposal poses a significant threat to local students and residents.

I urge city councils and county officials to vote no for this project.

Thanks

From: Lisa Eckstein
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mjackson@lifemoves.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] in support of Benton + Lawrence interim housing
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 7:59:43 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: Sarah Foad
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Housing
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:06:33 PM

Good evening Consuelo,

First, I want to say thank you for taking time to facilitate these community meetings. While challenging, they are much appreciated.

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 have seen first-hand the impact of homelessness on an individual and family. I work at Stanford Health Care and see the effect on the community daily. I feel this project will improve safety for the community, increasing resources for underserved community members, and restoring dignity to those who deserve it as much as you and I. I have also spoken to many members of the community who feel similarly, but are too afraid to attend community meetings out of fear of retaliation and abuse. It is not easy to knowingly put oneself and one's family in the line of fire. There is significant support for this project whether it is publicly voiced or not.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Sarah Foad, MS
[redacted]
Santa Clara, CA 95051
LinkedIn
Board of Directors, Women Health Care Executives

From: Sarah Foad
To: Sarah Foad
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Interim Housing
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:35:38 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 everyone deserves the right to secure, consistent 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,

Sarah Foad, MS

Resident of Santa Clara

LinkedIn
Board of Directors, Women Health Care Executives

From: R. Elysa Gurman
To: R. Elysa Gurman
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Lawrence & Benton
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:49:37 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: R. Elysa Gurman
To: R. Elysa Gurman
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Lawrence & Benton
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 5:01:57 PM

Hi,

I'm 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 safety.

It is generally accepted by people in the field that getting unhoused people into houses is safer for everyone. It removed public incidents because the people have privacy as well as support services. There is actually evidence that housing facilities like this one *reduce* crime in a given neighborhood. Additionally, unhoused people are shown to be much more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators. The recent KQED report about 5 housing sites in San Jose showed that the only increased emergency call was ambulances, which is not a bad thing.

You can find more details on our website here. And below are some of my sources:

KQED: Emergency Calls, Complaints Are Down Near San José's Temporary Housing Sites. So Why Are They Still So Politically Risky?

Enterprise - Record: Chico State study finds Safe Space shelter didn't impact neighborhood crime

National Low Income Housing Coalition: New Study Finds that Providing People Experiencing Homelessness with Housing has Positive Impacts on Health, Crime, and Employment

National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project: A Report of Hate Crimes and Violence Against People who are Homeless in the United States in 2000

NYU: Homeless youths most often victims of crime: study

R. Elysa Gurman (she/they)

From: R. Elysa Gurman
To: R. Elysa Gurman
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Lawrence & Benton
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 3:01:13 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:	Eric Forster
To:	Supervisor.Lee
Cc:	supervisor.ellienberg@bos.ccgov.org; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaceccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; info@abodeservices.org; bray@destinationhomes.org; Hillary.barroga@hhs.sccgov.org; donate.lartigue@razingthebar.org; autron@homefirstscc.org; bwcmail@billwilsoncenter.org; nohomekeysantaclarasunnyvale@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Interim Homeless housing at Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Sunday, March 12, 2023 1:27:23 PM

Hr. Lee
My name is Eric Forster and I live on Kintyre Way in Sunnyvale and you are my county supervisor representative.

I am adamantly apposite to the proposed interim homeless housing project for the Pumpkin Patch lot @ Lawrence and Benton.

There are many reasons why this is not a good idea some of which is the interim homeless housing project on ElCamino at the Bella Vista Inn property is all ready under way,
the Pumpkin Patch lot is used by the church next door as well as the by-yearly used for a Christmas Tree farm & pumpkin patch.

I would appreciate it very much if you would represent me in apposing this project.

Sincerely
Eric Forster

From: SHALINI Venkatesh
To: Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Interim Housing at Lawrence and Benton
Date: Monday, February 27, 2023 7:46:55 PM

Ms Hernandez and Mr Marcus,

I attended the February 13th online meeting on the interim shelter program proposal for a site at Lawrence Expressway and Benton Street, and was taken aback at the strong reactions expressed in opposition by a lot of those attending it. Like many of them, I live in the neighborhood, less than a mile from the site, but I feel very differently. I am strongly in support of the proposal as presented by the County, City and LifeMoves and think it will be a fine use of public land. Losing a few weeks a year of commercial use and a few hours a week of overflow parking amounts to very little when balanced against the benefits a housing program like this one could provide.

I have lived in my current home for over 30 years, and am all too aware of the huge increase over that period in the number of people who sleep on the sidewalks, in the parks (including one very close to the proposed site) and in cars parked on the streets, all in this city neighborhood. I would far rather have them safely accommodated in a well designed shelter, with professional support of whatever type is necessary for them to deal with any health problems, and find their way out into long term housing. Such a program would surely improve the quality of life not only for the individuals currently unhoused, but also for the rest of us. I expect there are potential problems of the type associated with any new development, like the issue of pressure on parking space brought up by several of the meeting attendees, but I am sure these problems are not insurmountable. Also, I see no factual basis to fear that the existence of this type of shelter would cause any more local crime than the lack of one currently does.

I applaud the County and the City for identifying this piece of land as a potential site for a supportive shelter, for stepping up to try to better serve those who desperately need its support, and for involving the community at a very early stage. I sincerely hope the project continues to move forward and receives all the necessary approvals to be implemented.

Sincerely,

Shalini Venkatesh
[redacted]

From: Debbie Dempsey
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Interim Housing
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 7:56:57 PM

I live within the 1000 foot radius of the proposed interim housing site. I adamantly oppose building interim housing on this very low density zoned parcel because it is too small to adequately address the underlying cause of each individual's homelessness.
The Benton/Lawrence Site (owned by the County of Santa Clara) should be used for affordable housing for:

firefighters
police
health care workers
social workers
employees of nearby businesses (within a close specified area to include Sunnyvale, San Jose and Cupertino)
A requirement for such housing could be a number of volunteer hours at the interim housing project that should instead be included in the Related Santa Clara development of 3155 Stars & Stripes Drive. The Stars & Stripes Drive site consists of 9.2 million square feet, on 240 acres, of mixed use development and is owned by the City of Santa Clara.

The larger site would allow for services to explore the route causes of homelessness such as:

comprehensive on-site social services
benefits assistance
safe place to stay
substance abuse recovery services
laundry services
3 meals a day (Food Bank)
courtyard to stay during the day
showers
safes
acute care clinic
medical care

Sincerely,

Deborah Dempsey
[redacted]
Santa Clara

From:	Jean
To:	mjackson@lifemoves.org; Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; MayorandCouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Lawrence and Benton Interim Shelter Comment
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:23:01 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:	Tina Liu
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood
Date:	Monday, March 20, 2023 1:55:21 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:	Angela Rausch
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; District1; Chavez, Cindy; Supervisor.Lee; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor Simitian
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] LifeMoves site support
Date:	Monday, March 13, 2023 6:25:44 PM
Attachments:	SVDP Benton and Lawrence Site.pdf

Dear All,
Our group, Saint Vincent de Paul at Church of the Resurrection in Sunnyvale is in full support of this Life Moves project at Benton and Lawrence.
Thank you for your hard work.
Angela Rausch

From:	ying d
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclara.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Low Barrier Homeless Shelter on Lawrence and Benton
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:32:37 PM

Dear County Supervisors, District Council members, Housing Director and managers:

I am a Santa Clara county resident for more than 2 decades and have experienced many changes over the years. Recently the news that you are deciding to build a Low Barrier Homeless Shelter on Lawrence and Benton for upto 200 residents concerns me.

I am strongly oppose it for the following reason.

1. 200 residents are too crowded for that location
2. No survey is published regarding the safety of the future residents in terms of noise, traffic of that location. Please share if you have.
3. The qulification criteria of the residents is not published to county residents (Please forward a copy if you have)
4. The process of location selection is not published and transparent for county resident to review and inputs (PLease share a copy if you have)
5. No information has been shared how the future resident and facility would be managed by the Supervisor Susan Ellenberg and Otto Lee along with the cost (in terms of county tax and budget alloaction). Please share if you have.
6. No survey has been received from county in terms of impact analysis to the nearby residents and businesses. Please share if you do.

I urge you to take the time and do your due diligence in evalauting all other options and present the options and analysis to county resident for inputs before any decision making. Also to make sure you take the ownership and resposibility for the decision you make and its outcome.

Thanks for your attention.

Ying

From: Tin Tran
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 6:44:26 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 college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood.

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.

From:	Ray
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov, kleincouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov, meltoncouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov, mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov, supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org, supervisor.lee@bos.sccgov.org, Khardy@santaclaraca.gov, Kpark@santaclara...
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:47:51 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!

From:	No Homekey in Birdland Benton
To:	amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	mjackson@lifemoves.org; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; MeltonCouncil; MayorandCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; info@rokhanna.com; vravikumar@bayareanewsgroup.com; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Misleading information from SC city council and county supervisors
Date:	Friday, March 3, 2023 3:32:04 PM

Mr. Marcus,

A number of Santa Clara city council members stated that the city has no say in which location is selected for an interim shelter, yet the county website states that both Santa Clara city and county asked their staff to look for properties and prepare a proposal without considering or consulting with the local, tax-paying residents. Is it true that Santa Clara really has no say?

The city canceled the White Oak project and claims that Benton, a half mile to the south, is a better option because it is county property. This also implies that the Ponderosa neighborhood's concern actually had no impact on the decision. It also implies that the future operating costs are irrelevant. Now, you're dealing with Birdland which has an even greater concern and much louder voice. However, you have conveniently failed to inform the Birdland Neighborhood which is directly across the street from the proposed facility.

It is inappropriate and potentially illegal to mislead and/or block information from reaching taxpayers and voters. We are certain we can find a law that protects us and was not overridden by Project Homekey's Covid Emergency temporary laws, a state of emergency that has recently expired.

While we are certain this is one of many hundreds of emails you've received on the subject, we would like to share few of our concerns about the misinformation and misleading public statements on county and city websites and in recent meetings:

- Ms. Hernandez' statement that homelessness increased in Santa Clara by 35% in Santa Clara is misleading and poor justification for building interim housing. Starting from a small number always results in a larger change. e.g. 3/10 is 30%.

- Ms. Hernandez is also leaving out the fact that San Jose, San Francisco, and other large cities pushed their homeless out of their cities and camps (e.g. Guadalupe River encampments, North San Jose encampments near Apple property, Cupertino/280 encampments, West San Jose/280 encampments) into surrounding easy-access towns, including Santa Clara. Therefore, their numbers decreased while ours increased.

- Please advise, given that Ms. Hernandez' email address is a .org, not .gov, is she employed by the county government or is hhs.sccgov.org a separate entity? We would like to confirm that we are communicating with the government representative of this project and understand the management structure and contractors involved. Thank you.

- There are claims that the 'unhoused' population that recently landed on our streets and creeks are locals. This is false. That would imply that Santa Clara suddenly produced a significant number of citizens with issues. It did not. Santa Clara, SCVW, and the state/county have created a magnet for the homeless and provide easy access, especially at the borders to other cities. Public Safety confirmed most are not from here and has stated that their hands are tied. Arrest records also show that most are not local to Santa Clara. Please prove to us that this sudden increase of homeless individuals came from Santa Clara. Show us the complete and factual data history of each individual, anonymized if not part of public record, of course, and let us draw our own conclusions.

- Moratoriums on evictions have only recently been lifted. We cannot conclude that locals who were recently unemployed during the pandemic are now homeless. Please show us the data.

- Bella Vista, another Homeky project that quietly slipped past the community, will house more than two hundred homeless or low/no-income homeless. That hotel was already housing prostitution, drug deals, and whatnot (see Arrest Records and Crimereports.com on LexisNexis). This, plus the new project will bring the number to 300-400 within a 1/4 mile radius (please provide the projected numbers). The area is already losing businesses and is seeing a significant increase in crime. Can this area handle another 200 given how poorly the current situation is being managed? We don't go to that Walgreens anymore. It's frightening. They'll probably be gone soon.

- Claiming that Santa Clara city needs to house more drug addicts, repeat offenders/criminals and parolees, and individuals with serious mental or personality disorders is exacerbating the issue. Placing 120-200 of them in 'stacked containers' on a 1 acre parcel, across from liquor and convenience stores, next to an expressway, a hundred yards (or feet in some cases) from community swimming pools, parks, churches, and schools in an area where they will never find a job is as unfair and abusive to them as it is to local residents. It's a fact that homeless shelters attract homeless and trouble. People have friends, patrons, dealers that they'll need to meet with in the minimart parking lot since they won't be allowed to invite them into their tiny home complex.

- Isolating these individuals from the services they need and unloading the responsibilities onto local public safety and middle income families that are already struggling to afford living near work is irresponsible and kicking the can down the road. Expecting them to jump on public transit to visit their social worker in another part of the county is a pipe dream. They will more likely be tempted to panhandle or steal from neighboring properties. It will only increase their chances of breaking laws, future incarceration and perpetuation of their dangerous lifestyle. Do we leave an open bottle of vodka in the same room with a recovering alcoholic? No!

- We all knew of a few kids in high school that chose to party rather than to work hard and study. They had the same standard of living and opportunities as the rest of us. In fact, I know of one that partied and dealt drugs, committed armed robbery, is homeless living under a building in Folsom, attempted to burn down that building, and is in and out of the county jail. He would likely tell you himself that you wouldn't want him as a neighbor. His family and county services tried to help him as a teenager. Unfortunately, he was enabled rather than discouraged and treated. He doesn't belong in a strange neighborhood. He needs psychiatric treatment in a location far removed from where he can do harm to himself or others. There is a reason rehab facilities are in remote, peaceful areas where distractions, temptations, and easy access to illegal drugs are at a minimum.

- Claims that crime won't increase and home values won't decrease are not based on complete facts. We wouldn't buy here knowing there will be an interim housing facility for previously unhoused is across the street. We estimate a loss of between $100k and $500k for my own home's value. Multiply that by at least 400 homes of those represented at recent meetings and you have a combined loss of $40 million to $200 million, which far exceeds the project that will cost at least $30 million.

- We will no longer be able to walk our children to school, dog to the park, or stop at the Walgreen's for medicine. We are afraid. We're an outdoorsy neighborhood. This will only lock us indoors and cause people to purchase guns for self-protection, the exact opposite of what we as Californians want. New neighbors are going to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars, not just because of the impending recession, but because NO young families are going to purchase a

home near a homeless shelter. Please show us the complete analysis or give us the raw data and we'll do our own analysis of potential home values. Show us data of similar neighborhoods that ended up with homeless shelters within their community, pre pandemic. The data doesn't exist, because most cities don't place them in neighborhoods and the Homekey project is the first of its kind to override zoning and existing laws/regulations. The SF housing authority figured out in the 70's and 80's that projects of the 1950's congregating a large number of low or no income individuals in a confined area resulted in very high crime. We don't want to live in SF nor do we want our community to resemble it.

- It is alarming that yet another mass homeless housing development is being proposed at the edge of town next to the border of Sunnyvale rather than near Santa Clara University, light industrial, and large corporations with loud voices. It seems we have a 'keep the center of Santa Clara beautiful' situation. We work at those large corporations and they likely don't want us living in dangerous areas. It's only a matter of time before more companies and their employees choose to relocate to other states due to high taxes that are being spent on projects such as Homekey which simply attracts more troubled individuals and criminals from other parts of the country and world.

- Some of us volunteered at Joint Venture Silicon Valley 20 years ago. Our goal was to help bring job opportunities to this area. We're disappointed and concerned with what we're seeing and hearing about the relationship and influence between Santa Clara leaders, JVSV and Sobrato. Please explain more about this relationship.

- We should be sending the homeless back home to their own families and communities to handle, not inviting them to enjoy free shelter, food, and services funded by local taxpayers. The non-profits and large developers with 'philanthropic' arms are simply perpetuating and enabling the issue, not to mention, landing significant contracts to pay their commercial organizations and contractors to build shelters near existing homes.

- It is the county's and city's job to provide factual data and evidence that crime does not increase in or near a homeless shelter. It is also their job to represent us, the people that pay you. We're an audience of middle income technology workers, engineers, analysts, and executives that couldn't afford to live in Los Altos, Monte Sereno, or Los Gatos. Both parents work 10-12 hour days and have massive mortgages and property tax bills while trying to raise families. We do not live in luxury. Our only guilty pleasures are the ability to take our kids and dogs for walks to the parks in the evening. We're talking about teaching self defense.

- We have several senior citizens in this area in addition to the young families. They are not wealthy. The county would likely love to see them move so that property taxes can increase beyond Prop 13 protections. Unfortunately, in addition to the pending recession, this project has already damaged property resale values and their nest eggs they've worked their entire lives to build.

- The meeting on Mar 1 did not address any of our questions. It simply restated what was already presented during the virtual meeting and angered the local community. In addition, the facility was not large enough. The meeting was very poorly managed and displayed complete disregard for the community. **It is inappropriate to expect a project manager to manage a community discussion about a project that will cause millions of dollars in losses and safety issues for local residents.** We recommend you bring in higher level leadership that can answer questions and properly manage a crowd of very smart people with tough questions. Please tell us how many were in attendance and how many could not get in due to fire codes?

We have never seen this neighborhood and community so angered. This situation already has

people discussing future elections, political parties, and laws even though most of this area has been accommodating and moderate. If any of this project moves forward as is, there will be ongoing challenges for both sides. Let's think outside the box and not put our homeless into tiny boxes that resemble prison cells next door to our schools and parks. It is simply incomprehensible that the county, a non-profit, and our governor assume they can trample on the rights of those who pay them and likely voted them into office. No one wants to see anyone fail or lose their job.

We look forward to you addressing all of our concerns and showing us alternate, sensible solutions and appropriate use of this county airports and roads equipment parking lot and for properly caring for our own community's struggling population. Please stop asking the community to come up with alternatives. That is your job. Not ours.

Thank you.

Birdland Neighbors SE

Note: This email is not approved for publication. We welcome you to request an interview with our public representation.

Benton and Lawrence - Office of Supportive Housing - County of Santa Clara
osh.sccgov.org



In July 2021, the City of Santa Clara's City Council asked the staff to find a site to house unhoused people. They wanted to apply for state funding that would be available for that use. Soon after, the 2022 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey reported that homelessness in Santa Clara increased by 35% from 2019 to 2022. Then, Santa Clara's Homelessness Task Force reported that Santa Clara does not have enough interim housing for unhoused people. The need is clear.

Around the same time, the County's Board of Supervisors told staff to look for County-owned land that could be used for interim housing. ...

From: centralpark geese
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No criminal homeless shelter near central park, strongly oppose the benton and lawrence project
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 4:28:52 PM
Attachments: image.png

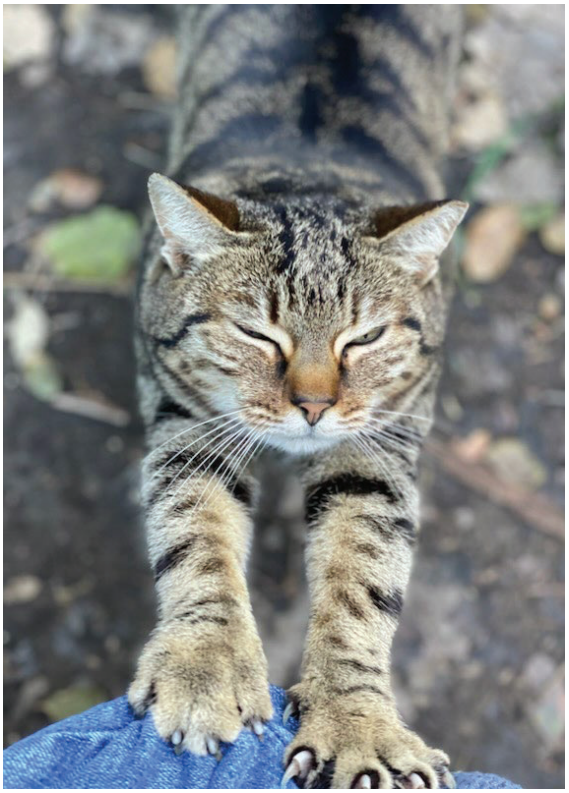
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Benton Shelter Project. As a long-time resident of the area near Central Park, I have been feeding the cats in the park for over ten years. I have grown to love these animals and feel a deep responsibility to protect them.

My biggest concern with the Benton Shelter Project is that it will attract individuals with criminal backgrounds, who may pose a threat to the vulnerable lives in our community. I have heard stories of homeless individuals using booby traps to kill wild cats, which is both heartbreaking and concerning. I worry that this shelter will only attract more individuals with mental illness, who may not be able to control their impulses and could potentially harm not only the cats, but other members of our community.

I understand the importance of providing shelter and support for those in need, but I believe that the Benton Shelter Project is not the answer. There are other ways to address homelessness and mental illness that do not involve placing a shelter in such a heavily populated area. I urge you to consider the safety and well-being of the community before making a decision on this matter.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sandra



From: Zhu Grace
To: Zhu Grace
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No danger to our kids please!
Date: Friday, March 3, 2023 7:06:49 PM

Dear sir/madam,

We **strongly oppose** building the low barrier tiny home homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton. Here are my reasons and requests. Please seriously consider my reasons, and reply back with detailed answers to all my requests. Reasons:

- Too close to 24 schools and daycares. Serious safety concern.
- We oppose no prior research having been done on the impact of this shelter to the neighborhood.
- 80-100 rooms are too many for this tiny land.
- We oppose a shelter accepting people with criminal history and drug issues. We oppose no screening procedures.
- We oppose people with mental issues living in this shelter.
- We oppose tiny removable homes, instead of concrete buildings.
- No plans for management, no guarantee for neighborhood safety and quality of life.
- We oppose this shelter with a 1:100 staff/homeless ratio, and only volunteers onsite to treat mental illness.
- This shelter is only 0.5 miles from another shelter, Bella Vista.
- No research and evidence can show LifeMoves's MTV shelter succeeds in reducing the homeless population, and improving the homeless's mental issues.

Requests:

- I request you provide 300+ questions the attendees entered in chats during the first hearing meeting, and your answers.
- I request you provide the date, time and location of the April meetings among LifeMoves, city and county staff to discuss community feedback. and I request that info be shared to the public. and we all get notifications of the meetings.
- I request that the County also set up a zoom meeting for the in person meetings, so that people like me who need to take care of kids at home, can also participate.
- I request you provide research/study on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood.
- I request you provide a solid plan for the steps to ensure the neighborhoods are safe and secure. and a detailed plan for funding and leading the effort?
- I request plans on how you are making sure young kids and students are safe walking to schools.
- I request a plan on how to solve the potential problems on parking and traffic given that 80-120 units will be introduced to an already overcrowded neighborhood.
- I request you to plan to address the increased police funding and numbers needs, given the tremendous increase in population.How will community's safety be endured? What's your plan and city's plan?
- How can you ensure homeless people can be well-behaved? Are there any regulations for the occupants in the shelter? If they break the regulation, what's the penalty?
- What's the weapon policy? How can you make sure they do not have weapon with

them?

- Will the city increase its police force?

- What's their move-in process look like? How many days can they stay? Will they be allowed to get out of the shelter?

- Who will be sent to this shelter? Will it only for Santa Clara City's homeless, or homeless from anywhere can come and live here?

- How will the maximum 240 homeless people be managed? By whom? Where does the funding come from?

Thank you!

Grace

From:	No Homekey in Birdland Benton
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] NO INTERIM HOUSING AT BENTON & LAWRENCE
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 7:29:37 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:	Rui Zhang
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] No to Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:59:49 PM

Dear all,

My name is Rui, 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.
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.

-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 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 to vote NO, or, I am not going to vote for you next year. Thanks,

Regards,
Ray

From:	Chao Huang
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] NO to Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway shelter
Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:11:09 AM

To the 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 is a densely populated area with many schools, daycares and seniors/elderly actively and frequently walking in the neighborhood and using the outdoor spaces. I believe in extending a helping hand whenever I can, but just as a homeless person has his/her/their right, I also have an equal right to safety and property protection as a law abiding and tax paying citizen.

There are already several homeless shelters nearby, including the converted Bella Vista Inn that's within easy walking distance. Why is the city and the county putting so much burden on our community? Are we somehow less of a person and deserve less rights? All men are created equal. This is extremely unfair to our neighborhood.

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

Regards,
Chao-Wen Huang

From:	Phuong Wong
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; khardy@santaclara.org; kpark@santaclara.gov; mayorandcouncil@santaclara.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Supervisor.Lee; Ellenberg, Supervisor
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] No to homeless shelter at Benton/Lawrence
Date:	Thursday, February 23, 2023 2:52:54 PM

To whom it may concern,

Here's the gist:

- An emergency shelter comprising 80-120 units is slated to be built by Sobrato & managed by LifeMoves on the county owned property across from 7-11 at Lawrence Expressway and Benton Street.
- We already have a homeless shelter at El Camino and Lawrence intersection, less than 0.5 miles from this site.
- The first community outreach was on 2/13 where we got to learn about the low entry barrier for such a shelter implying we could have mentally ill, drug addicts and criminals along with other folks who need care in such a facility.
- It is a transient shelter with only 1-2 people planned to administer ~120 people.
- Feedback from the community wasn't taken until 2/13 and it remains unclear whether the impact to safety, security and quality of life of the neighborhood was even considered in the choice of locations, and why specifically this location was selected.
- There was an overwhelming opposition to the proposal by the community primarily due to safety concerns for children and residents around the site.
- The community is not opposed to the initiative to build low income housing and homeless shelters per se. We feel that it should not be at the cost of safety of children and tax paying residents as well as severely affecting the quality of life and housing prices. Some other ideas for this specific parcel that could be mutually beneficial where the residents including children could volunteer enriching the lives of future residents and themselves could be:
    - Subsidized housing for senior citizens
    - Housing for physically disabled
- There could be better locations where such safety concerns may not be there. Most of such facilities are surrounded by commercial landmarks (e.g. 2566 Leghorn St Mountain View), quite away from elementary schools. We'd recommend that such shelters be located away from dense residential areas, especially far away from schools.

Safety and security, better quality of life are some of the top priorities of your residents. In trying to solve one complex issue (homelessness), it is not OK to create multiple new issues that affect safety, security, law and order.

Summarizing, we the residents of Santa Clara, say "**No**" to the location choice due to the following main reasons and would like to work with you to find some other alternative use of the parcel that helps the city:

1.

Adverse impact to Safety and security (of school going children): A facility like this shouldn't be next to so many schools. There are at least seven schools within 0.5-1.5 miles radius. How do we ensure the safety of all the kids walking to and from schools?

2. **Adverse impact to Safety, Security and quality of life of all residents in proximity**: Proximity of such shelters to densely populated areas have a negative impact on the community (increase in crime, vandalism, drug use). The low entry bar for such a site increases the probability of such incidents which could potentially be very damaging for kids. The city would need more resources to provide safety for the community.

3. **More than one such shelter impacting the same neighborhood**: Old Bella Vista Inn site for Sunnyvale homeless being built right now (Phase 1) and bigger plans for Phase 2 to make it permanent. Why should this specific community bear such a disproportionate burden associated with the shelters?

4. **Adverse impact to Traffic and potential accident hazards:** The site is at a very dangerous intersection of Lawrence Expressway & Benton that could impact the homeless clients as well as residents.

5. **Adverse impact to Property Values:** There is a risk of decrease in property values making it harder for homeowners to sell, rent or refinance their homes.

A petition, started by one of the concerned residents, has already been signed by more than 1000 residents.

https://www.change.org/p/say-no-to-the-homeless-shelter-at-corner-of-benton-street-and-lawrence-expressway-in-sant

We need your help in shifting the location of this homeless shelter! Would you be willing to support your residents in their effort to **keep safety and security of all residents one of the top priorities for Santa Clara**?

Can you help?

Regards,

Phuong Wong

From:	Jonathan van Clute
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] NO to the Benton Street homeless shelter!!
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:55:06 PM

You don't need another form letter from yet another nearby resident telling you to vote no on this project. So this is all I have to say.

Vote NO on this or we will most definitely be showing our displeasure at re-election time, and any other chance we get. You have a job specifically to listen to and represent us, the residents. So do that job and stop this abhorrent project from moving forward.

Jonathan van Clute (born 50 years ago, and still live, within easy walking distance of this site)

From: Jiayi Wang
To: amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] object/decline the proposal of Lawrence & Benton
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:59:21 PM

Hi,

I hope this letter finds you well. I appreciate your efforts to propose the low-barrier interim housing near Lawrence & Benton. However, I regret to inform you that I and my family must decline the proposal.

While I understand the importance of low-barrier interim housing for those who need it, I think it is not suitable for our neighborhood: this proposal will cause additional safety concerns.

I would like to thank you for your time and effort. Please know that I appreciate your dedication to serving the community, and I respect the work you do to support those in need.

But again, this proposal is not suitable in our neighborhood and I want to express my objection.

Regards,

Jiayi

From:	Em Wong
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclara.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Objection: Lawrence and Benton Homeless Shelter Plan
Date:	Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:29:10 PM

Dear supervisors, council members, division manager and whom may be concerned,

I am a writing to disapprove the homeless housing plan on Lawrence and Benton cross road. Reasons include but not limited to:

1. Negative effect on neighborhood **safety** with more homeless people in the area with more consistency
2. Negative effect on nearby **school area**. There many schools in the area and a kinder garden right next to the proposed location. Parents will highly likely change for a different school.
3. Negative effect on nearby businesses due to reasons above
4. It will scare away future home buyers, and give current residents a reason to relocate, **affecting entire housing market**
5. Negatively affect current residents' trust on county decision makers, eventually affecting **voting decisions**

Optional solution:
1. Provide shelter in a more remote area. This is a prime location near Kaiser, Apple, Costco. The ROI and economic impact do not justify such decision.

Sincerely,
Emmeline Wong
Santa Clara Resident (Zip code, CA 94087)

From:	Agou Cheng
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton at Lawrence Shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:44:52 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:	Tianqi Liu
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] OPPOSE Benton Shelter!
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:23:58 PM

This is Christy, 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.

Thanks,
Christy

From:	Likhit Ganga
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:44:03 PM

Hi all, I am Likhit, living in Santa Clara with my family. **I oppose building a homeless facility at Benton.**

It is disappointing and concerning that county officials, LifeMoves, and city council members have provided misleading information regarding the proposed Benton shelter. The officials' lack of knowledge about the surrounding schools and child facilities, and their inaccurate information regarding the number of schools in the area, demonstrates their ignorance of the community's safety and well-being. It is imperative that we hold these officials accountable and urge the City Council to find a non-residential location for the shelter.

Please REJECT this radical experiment! Thank you!

Best,
Likhit

From:	Tao Zhang
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:25:21 PM

Hi there!

This is Tao, a parent and resident in the neighborhood close to Benton & Lawrence intersection. 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.

Best Regards,
Tao

From:	Xiao Wang
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:11:47 PM

My name is Xiao, and I'm a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is a reckless proposal and radical experiment.

County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of nearly 500 participants 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. Therefore LifeMoves' promise cannot be trusted

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. Thank you for your attention.

Best Regards,

Xiao

From:	Tin Tran
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:02:00 PM

My name is Tin Tran, a resident of Santa Clara county. I strongly oppose the Benton 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.

> 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.

Thank you,
TIn

From:	Connie Zhang
To:	abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; Lisa Gillmor; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; rchahal; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Chavez, Cindy; drush@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; MeltonCouncil; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; Supervisor Simitian
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 7:25:44 PM

Hi,

My name is Connie, 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
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!

4. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs

5. 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！ thanks!

From:	Smile
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 6:37:14 PM

My name is Xin Li , 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.

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.

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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.

--

Thank you,

Xin Li

From:	Lavender Wen
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 6:32:28 PM

Hi ,
My name is Mengqi Wen, 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.

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I'm counting on you.

From:	Ada Yeung
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Cc:	Nohomekeysantaclarasunnyvale@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 6:08:56 PM

My name is Ada Yeung, 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.

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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.

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I'm counting on you.

From:	Joyce Huang
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 3:04:06 PM

My name is Yulin 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.

--
Best regards,

Yulin "Joyce" Huang, PHD

From:	James Sun
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 2:04:30 PM

Hi,

My name is James Sun , 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.
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- Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
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I'm counting on you.

James

From:	Lei Fan
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:31:29 PM

My name is Lei Fan, 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.

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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.

From:	emma Zh
To:	abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Chavez, Cindy; Hernandez, Consuelo; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; Lisa Gillmor; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; rchahal; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; drush@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; MeltonCouncil; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; Supervisor Simitian
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:17:34 PM

Hey:

My name is Emma , 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.

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I'm counting on you.

From:	齐治华
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:05:22 PM

My name is Zhihua Qi, 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.

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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!

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

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I'm counting on you.

From:	Zhenzhen (Viola) Gao
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Chavez, Cindy; Hernandez, Consuelo; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; drush@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; kleincouncil; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; Lisa Gillmor; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; MeltonCouncil; rchahal; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; Supervisor Simitian
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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.
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I'm counting on you.

From:	Jiayi Wang
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:38:07 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:	huang lin
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:36:35 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.

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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:	Zhenzhen (Viola) Gao
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Chavez, Cindy; Hernandez, Consuelo; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; drush@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; kleincouncil; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; Lisa Gillmor; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; MeltonCouncil; rchahal; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; Supervisor Simitian
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:32:08 AM

My name is Viola Gump, 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.

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- 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!
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I'm counting on you.

From:	Jiayi Pan
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:25:17 AM

Good morning,

This is Jiayi Pan. 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.

This is the top factor determine my vote in the next election!

I am counting on you. Thanks.

Regards,
Jiayi

From:	YangXiaoya
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:20:43 AM

My name is Sharon, 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.

From: [redacted]
To: MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:28:50 AM

My name is Wenhua Zhang , 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.

Wenhua

From:	Huasha Zhao
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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: MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 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:	Bei
To:	abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; Lisa Gillmor; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; rchahal; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; drush@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; MeltonCouncil; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 15, 2023 2:29:28 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:	Ray Leon
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter, Wrong location
Date:	Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:20:20 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:	Yuanyuan Zhang
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	nohomekeysantacarlasunnyvale@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 10:27:53 PM

Hi,

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: Maggie Ren
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:54:47 PM

Hello,

I'm Maggie. As a concerned citizen of my beloved Santa Clara, **I strongly oppose the proposed Benton shelter.** 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.

Best,
Maggie

From:	Xia Hong
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclara.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] oppose building the low barrier tiny homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Saturday, February 25, 2023 2:45:10 PM

To everyone,

I strongly oppose building the low barrier tiny home homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton. Here are my reasons and requests. Please seriously consider my reasons, and reply back with detailed answers to all my requests.

It's too close to 24 schools and daycares and has Serious safety concerns. I oppose no prior research having been done on the impact of this shelter to the neighborhood. I oppose people with mental issues living in this shelter. This shelter is only 0.5 miles from another shelter, Bella Vista. No research and evidence can show LifeMoves's MTV shelter succeeds in reducing the homeless population, and improving the homeless's mental issues.

I request you provide 300+ questions the attendees entered in chats during the first hearing meeting, and your answers. I request you provide the date, time and location of the April meetings among LifeMoves, city and county staff to discuss community feedback. and I request that info be shared to the public. and we all get notifications of the meetings. I request that the County also set up a zoom meeting for the in person meetings, so that people like me who need to take care of kids at home, can also participate. I request plans on how you are making sure young kids and students are safe walking to schools.

Thanks,
Amy

From: Shirley Yang
To: Supervisor.Lee; Ellenberg, Supervisor
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2023 11:00:17 PM

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Shirley, living at Briarwood Dr, Santa Clara. Our family strongly opposes building the homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton. Here are my reasons, please seriously consider.

1. There is already a homeless shelter in Bella Vista Inn nearby, why do we need an additional one?
2. We hear that there will be removable homes with 80-100 rooms, this is too crowded and not safe.
3. This location is close to many schools, laurelwood elementary and Stratford school are both within ~0.25 miles. We have lots of safety concerns about our kids. No one can take responsibility if anything happens to the kids at school!
4. We don't see any plans to help the homeless's mental health, how could you help the homeless people without mental treatment?
5. We strongly oppose a shelter accepting people with criminal histories and drug issues in such a dense neighborhood.

Please take our concerns into consideration, we really appreciate it!

Thanks,
Shirley

From:	Tin Tran
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor
Cc:	Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; info@abodeservices.org; bxxxy@destinationhomesv.org; Hillary.Barroga@hhs.sccgov.org; dontae.lartigue@razingthebar.org; bwcmail@billwilsoncenter.org; aurton
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose Santa Clara Homekey
Date:	Sunday, February 26, 2023 9:13:48 PM

My name is Tin Tran, a resident of Santa Clara County.

I **strongly oppose** building the low barrier container style homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton. Here are my reasons and requests. Please seriously consider my reasons, and reply back with detailed answers to all my requests.

Reasons:

Too close to 24 schools and daycares. Serious safety concern with zero screening including sex offenders.
We oppose no prior research having been done on the impact of this shelter to the neighborhood.
80-100 rooms are too many for this tiny land.
We oppose a shelter accepting people with criminal history and drug issues. We oppose no screening procedures.
We oppose people with mental issues living in this shelter.
We oppose tiny removable homes, instead of concrete buildings.
No plans for management, no guarantee for neighborhood safety and quality of life.
We oppose this shelter with a 1:100 staff/homeless ratio, and only volunteers onsite to treat mental illness.
This shelter is only 0.5 miles from another shelter, Bella Vista.
No research and evidence can show LifeMoves's MTV shelter succeeds in reducing the homeless population, and improving the homeless's mental issues.
Homeless families with values do not move into shelters due to fear of criminals and drug abusers. Typically more criminals, drug dealers and hardened people will stay at the shelters. The more news gets out there, the more homeless from other states will show up in our neighborhoods.
This is not a solution, it is a trap for California taxpayers and homeowners.

Requests:

I request you provide 300+ questions the attendees entered in chats during the first hearing meeting, and your answers.
I request you provide the date, time and location of the April meetings among LifeMoves, city and county staff to discuss community feedback. and I request that info be shared to the public. and we all get notifications of the meetings.
I request that the County also set up a zoom meeting for the in person meetings, so that people like me who need to take care of kids at home, can also participate.
I request you provide research/study on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood.
I request you provide a solid plan for the steps to ensure the neighborhoods are safe and secure. and a detailed plan for funding and leading the effort?
I request plans on how you are making sure young kids and students are safe walking to schools.
I request a plan on how to solve the potential problems on parking and traffic given that 80-120 units will be introduced to an already overcrowded neighborhood.
I request you to plan to address the increased police funding and numbers needs, given the tremendous increase in population.

How will community's safety be endured? What's your plan and city's plan?
How can you ensure homeless people can be well-behaved? Are there any regulations for the occupants in the shelter? If they break the regulation, what's the penalty?
What’s the weapon policy? How can you make sure they do not have weapons with them?
Will the city increase its police force?
What's their move-in process look like? How many days can they stay? Will they be allowed to get out of the shelter?
Who will be sent to this shelter? Will it only for Santa Clara City's homeless, or homeless from anywhere can come and live here?
How will the maximum 240 homeless people be managed? By whom? Where does the funding come from?

This is very concerning that this project is moving forward. As recorded in the city meeting, no one even knew how many schools were nearby when asked.

Thank you,
-Tin Tran

From: A Max
To: Ellenberg, Supervisor
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose the low barrier homeless shelter on Lawrence&Benton
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2023 4:53:19 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a Santa Clara resident & 2 kids dad living in Lawrence and Benton area for over 10 years, I **strongly oppose** building the low barrier homeless shelter on Lawrence and Benton due to the concerns of community safety. Below are my reasons and requests. Please seriously consider my reasons, and reply back with detailed answers to all the requests.

Reasons:

- This place is too close to 24 schools and daycares that raises **serious safety concerns**.
- We oppose any actions without considering the impact of this shelter to the safety of the neighborhood.
- We oppose a shelter accepting people with criminal history and drug issues, especially accepting those people without formal screening procedures.
- We oppose anyone with mental issues living in this shelter with so many kids living in this area.
- We oppose tiny removable homes in such a small place. 80-100 rooms are too crowded there.
- We oppose any action that doesn't have any guarantee for the neighborhood's quality of life.
- We oppose this shelter with a 1:100 staff/homeless ratio, and only volunteers onsite to treat mental illness.
- Also, this shelter is only 0.5 miles from the other shelter, Bella Vista. This action doesn't consider the neighborhood at all.
- No research and evidence can show LifeMoves's MTV shelter has succeeded in reducing the homeless population, and improving the homeless's mental issues.

Requests:

- I request you provide 300+ questions the attendees entered in chats during the first hearing meeting, and your answers.
- I request you provide the date, time and location of the April meetings among LifeMoves, city and county staff to discuss community feedback. and I request that info be shared to the public. and we all get notifications of the meetings.
- I request that the County also set up a zoom meeting for the in-person meetings, so that people like me who need to take care of kids at home, can also participate.
- I request you provide research/study on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood.
- I request you provide a solid plan for the steps to ensure the neighborhoods are safe and secure. and a detailed plan for funding and leading the effort?
- I request plans on how you are making sure young kids and students are safe walking to schools.
- I request a plan on how to solve the potential problems on parking and traffic given

that 80-120 units will be introduced to an already overcrowded neighborhood.

- I request you to plan to address the increased police funding and numbers needs, given the tremendous increase in population.How will community's safety be endured? What's your plan and city's plan?
- How can you ensure homeless people can be well-behaved? Are there any regulations for the occupants in the shelter? If they break the regulation, what's the penalty?
- What's the weapon policy? How can you make sure they do not have weapons with them?
- Will the city increase its police force?
- What's their move-in process look like? How many days can they stay? Will they be allowed to get out of the shelter?
- Who will be sent to this shelter? Will it only for Santa Clara City's homeless, or homeless from anywhere can come and live here?
- How will the maximum 240 homeless people be managed? By whom? Where does the funding come from?

Sincerely yours,

Max

From:	Howard Yan
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose the shelter built at Benton street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:32:37 PM

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,

Howard

From:	gyl
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Oppose the shelter location at Benton Street & Lawrence Expy
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:43:52 PM

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,

Grace

From: Qi Ren
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose to Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 2:28:35 PM

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Council members of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

My name is Qi REN, a home owner at neighbored near Benton and Lawrence. I and every member in my family strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton shelter development. 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.

Our community is counting on you.

Best regards,

Qi REN

From: Jie Liu
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose to Homeless Shelter at Lawrence & Benton Location
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 11:54:51 PM
Attachments: 2023-02-28_234236.png
2023-02-28_234236.pdf

To Representatives of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

As a local resident, I understand that people experiencing homelessness is a big issue that our community needs to solve. However, I am very concerned about the HomeKey project "Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Shelter".

I oppose building another homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton location because

- ☒ Bella Vista, only 0.5 miles away, is already being converted into a facility for the homeless.
- ☒ The characteristics of the location & method of modular construction (stacked-up container-style tiny houses) are identical to White Oak Lane project, **rejected in 2021** by the City of Santa Clara based on safety and other serious concerns.
- ☒ Forfeit of a playground, seasonal pumpkin patch & Christmas tree shopping for kids at all ages.
- ☒ Shelter 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.
- ☒ The project lacks transparency and outreach efforts.
- ☐ Additional comments:

I urge you to engage with us and have more public hearings to discuss alternative location choices and answer public concerns. It is with that said that I request that you vote **NO** on this project: Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Service Enriched Shelter

Name (Print): Qi Wang Signature: Qi Wang
Address: [redacted] Sunnyvale, 94087
Date: 02/28/2023

Name (Print): JIE LIU Signature: Jie Liu
Address: [redacted] Sunnyvale, 94087
Date: 02/28/2023

Name (Print): _____ Signature: _____
Address: _____
Date: ___/___/2023

(Please return to sohomekeysantaclarasunnyvale@gmail.com. Multiple signers can share the same petition. Use additional paper for more signers. Be sure to include name, address & date for each signer)

Jie Liu
Master of Architecture | AIA Associate | LEED AP BD+C
The University of Michigan

From: Tan Youyou
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose to Shelter at Benton-Lawrence
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 10:18:51 AM

Dear Officer,

I am a resident of Santa Clara county. I strongly oppose the Shelter at Benton-Lawrence.

We want to know who is responsible for the harmness if it is conducted by a person with mental health issues. Before that. **Big NO**

Best wishes
Youyou Tan

From:	freyzhou
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Opposing Benton-Lawrence Homeless Shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 15, 2023 8:27:15 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: Xiangfei Zhou
To: mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing Benton-Lawrence Low Barrier Shelter
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 4:16:52 PM

Hi,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of building Benton-Lawrence homeless shelter in our neighborhood. While I understand the need for providing shelter and support for homeless individuals, I believe that the negative impacts on our community would far outweigh any potential benefits.

First and foremost, there are legitimate safety concerns associated with having a homeless shelter in our neighborhood. As we all know, many homeless individuals (especially in the low barrier shelter) struggle with mental health issues and addiction, and the presence of a shelter in our community would likely increase the risk of crime and violence.

Furthermore, the construction of a homeless shelter in our neighborhood would have a negative impact on property values. Potential buyers would be less likely to invest in our community, resulting in a decline in property values and a loss of financial stability for our homeowners.

In addition, the increased traffic and foot traffic associated with a homeless shelter would likely disrupt the peaceful and quiet nature of our neighborhood, causing further inconvenience to residents and visitors alike.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of building a homeless shelter in our neighborhood. While I appreciate the need for addressing the issue of homelessness, there are other locations that would be better suited for a shelter that would not negatively impact our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--
Concerned Santa Clara residents.
Xiangfei(Frey) Zhou

From:	Xiao Wei
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Opposition and Requests Regarding Proposed Low Barrier Tiny Home Homeless Shelter on Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:49:18 PM

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier tiny home homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton. There are several reasons why I believe this shelter should not be built, and I have a few requests that I hope you will address in your response.

Firstly, I believe that the proposed location is too close to 24 schools and daycares, which is a serious safety concern. Additionally, there has been no prior research done on the impact of this shelter on the neighborhood, which is another reason for my opposition. Furthermore, the 80-100 rooms planned for this tiny land seem excessive, and I object to the idea of accepting people with criminal history and drug issues without proper screening procedures. I also oppose the idea of allowing people with mental issues to live in this shelter, as I believe it would be detrimental to their health and safety. Finally, I am concerned that the use of tiny removable homes instead of concrete buildings will not provide a sufficient level of protection for those living in the shelter.

In addition to these reasons, I am also concerned about the lack of planning and management for this shelter. There is no guarantee for neighborhood safety or quality of life, and the proposed 1:100 staff/homeless ratio with only volunteers on site to treat mental illness is insufficient. Moreover, the shelter is located just 0.5 miles from another shelter, Bella Vista, which seems unnecessary. Lastly, there is no evidence to show that LifeMoves's MTV shelter has succeeded in reducing the homeless population or improving the homeless's mental health issues.

In light of these concerns, I have a few requests that I hope you will address. Firstly, I request that you provide me with a list of the 300+ questions asked by attendees during the first hearing meeting, along with your answers. Secondly, I would like to know the date, time, and location of the April meetings between LifeMoves, city and county staff to discuss community feedback, and I would like this information to be shared with the public and for us to receive notifications about these meetings. Additionally, I request that the county set up a zoom meeting for the in-person meetings so that people like me, who have to take care of kids at home, can also participate.

Furthermore, I request that you provide me with research/studies on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood. I would also like to see a solid plan for ensuring the safety and security of the neighborhood and a detailed plan for funding and leading the effort. Additionally, I request that you provide plans for how you will ensure young kids and students are safe while walking to schools, as well as how you plan to solve any potential problems related to parking and traffic. I am also concerned about the increased need for police funding and numbers, given the tremendous increase in

population, and I would like to know what your plan is for ensuring community safety.

Lastly, I have some questions about the shelter itself. How can you ensure that homeless people will behave well? Are there any regulations for the occupants of the shelter, and what is the penalty if they break the regulations? What is the weapon policy, and how can you make sure that they do not have weapons with them? Will the city increase its police force, and how will the maximum 240 homeless people be managed? By whom and where will the funding come from? Who will be sent to this shelter, and will it only be for Santa Clara City's homeless, or will homeless people from anywhere be able to come and live here?

I appreciate your time and attention to these matters and look forward to hearing back from you with detailed answers to my requests.

Sincerely,

Shaun Wei

[redacted] Sunnyvale, 94085

From:	Ru Wang
To:	amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Opposition to Bento development
Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 2:26:30 PM

Dear Madam or Sir,

We live in Santa Clara near to Bento street, and we oppose to the Benton development plan, which propose to build a low-barrier shelter at Bento & Lawrence. The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools. We believe it is better to move the proposed low-barrier shelter to a non-residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals. Please instead of just caring about the money, take care of local resident (who are also taxpayers and votes) and safety of kids.

Thanks,
A Santa Clara Resident

From: erji wang
To: Hernandez, Consuelo; consuelo.hernandez@sccgov.org; amarcus@sataclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Benton Homeless Shelter Project
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:39:12 PM

Dear Consuelo & Adam

Firstly, I want to thank you for hosting the four public meetings regarding the proposed Benton Homeless Shelter Project. As a concerned citizen and a resident of the neighborhood, I appreciate the opportunity to express my views on this matter.

However, despite these meetings, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the project. There are several reasons why I believe that this project should not be approved.

Firstly, the proposed location of the shelter is within a 1.5-mile radius of 15 schools. This raises serious safety concerns for the children who attend these schools, as they could be at risk from the increased traffic and footfall that the shelter would generate. The safety of our children should be our top priority, and I believe that this project would put them in harm's way.

Secondly, the source of funding for the shelter's operation is not clear yet. Without a clear plan for funding, it is impossible to know if the shelter will be financially sustainable in the long term. This could result in the shelter being shut down, leaving the homeless population without a place to stay and potentially causing more harm than good.

Thirdly, the safety impact of the Milpitas 1000 Hillview Shelter on the surrounding neighborhood has not been properly explained yet. This raises concerns about the potential impact of the Benton Homeless Shelter on our own neighborhood, particularly with regard to crime and other safety issues.

Fourthly, in the four public meetings that have been held, two proposals were presented, each with 15-20% of the units designated for families. However, in the shared slides deck, the number is listed as 45%. It is unclear which number is the final one, and this lack of consistency is concerning.

Lastly, despite four rounds of meetings, there are still many unanswered questions from our neighbors, with over 60% of their questions still not addressed. This lack of transparency and communication suggests that the project is not yet ready for a vote by the city or county.

In light of these concerns, I strongly oppose the construction of the interim housing in Benton and Lawrence. I urge you to consider the safety and well-being of our community and to stop this proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Erji

From: erji wang
To: Hernandez, Consuelo; consuelo.hernandez@sccgov.org; amarcus@sataclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Benton Homeless Shelter Project
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:41:52 PM

Dear Consuelo & Adam

Firstly, I want to thank you for hosting the four public meetings regarding the proposed Benton Homeless Shelter Project. As a concerned citizen and a resident of the neighborhood, I appreciate the opportunity to express my views on this matter.

However, despite these meetings, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the project. There are several reasons why I believe that this project should not be approved.

Firstly, the proposed location of the shelter is within a 1.5-mile radius of 15 schools. This raises serious safety concerns for the children who attend these schools, as they could be at risk from the increased traffic and footfall that the shelter would generate. The safety of our children should be our top priority, and I believe that this project would put them in harm's way.

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Thirdly, the safety impact of the Milpitas 1000 Hillview Shelter on the surrounding neighborhood has not been properly explained yet. This raises concerns about the potential impact of the Benton Homeless Shelter on our own neighborhood, particularly with regard to crime and other safety issues.

Fourthly, in the four public meetings that have been held, two proposals were presented, each with 15-20% of the units designated for families. However, in the shared slides deck, the number is listed as 45%. It is unclear which number is the final one, and this lack of consistency is concerning.

Lastly, despite four rounds of meetings, there are still many unanswered questions from our neighbors, with over 60% of their questions still not addressed. This lack of transparency and communication suggests that the project is not yet ready for a vote by the city or county.

In light of these concerns, I strongly oppose the construction of the interim housing in Benton and Lawrence. I urge you to consider the safety and well-being of our community and to stop

this proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Erji

From:	Michelle Zhang
To:	kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor
Cc:	Hernandez, Consuelo; Hillary.Barroga@hhs.sccgov.org; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; bxxxy@destinationhomesv.org; khardy; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Supervisor.Lee
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Opposition to building a homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Saturday, March 11, 2023 10:25:37 AM

Hello,

My name is Michelle Zhang, a resident of the city of Santa Clara. Together with my husband and my two children, we are writing to express our strong opposition to building the low barrier container style homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton.

Here are our reasons and requests. Please seriously consider our reasons, and reply back with detailed answers to all our requests.

Reasons:

Too close to 24 schools and daycares. Serious safety concern.
We oppose no prior research having been done on the impact of this shelter to the neighborhood.
80-100 rooms are too many for this tiny land.
We oppose a shelter accepting people with criminal history and drug issues. We oppose no screening procedures.
We oppose people with mental issues living in this shelter.
We oppose tiny removable homes, instead of concrete buildings.
No plans for management, no guarantee for neighborhood safety and quality of life.
We oppose this shelter with a 1:100 staff/homeless ratio, and only volunteers onsite to treat mental illness.
This shelter is only 0.5 miles from another shelter, Bella Vista.
No research and evidence can show LifeMoves's MTV shelter succeeds in reducing the homeless population, and improving the homeless's mental issues.
Homeless families with values do not move into shelters due to fear of criminals and drug abusers. Typically more criminals, drug dealers and hardened people will stay at the shelters. The more news gets out there, the more homeless from other states will show up in our neighborhoods.
This is not a solution, it is a trap for California taxpayers and homeowners.

Requests:

We request that you provide 300+ questions the attendees entered in chats during the first hearing meeting, and your answers.
We request that you provide the date, time and location of the April meetings among LifeMoves, city and county staff to discuss community feedback. and I request that info be shared to the public. and we all get notifications of the meetings.
We request that the County also set up a zoom meeting for the in person meetings, so that people like me who need to take care of kids at home, can also participate.
We request you provide research/study on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood.

We request that you provide a solid plan for the steps to ensure the neighborhoods are safe and secure. and a detailed plan for funding and leading the effort?
We request plans on how you are making sure young kids and students are safe walking to schools.
We request a plan on how to solve the potential problems on parking and traffic given that 80-120 units will be introduced to an already overcrowded neighborhood.
We request that you address the increased police funding and numbers needs, given the tremendous increase in population.
How will community safety be protected? What's your plan and city's plan?
What, if any, measures are in place to ensure homeless residents abide by the law? Are there any rules or regulations for the occupants in the shelter? If they break the rules or regulation, what're the consequences? How do you plan to hold them accountable?
What's the weapon policy? How can you make sure they do not have weapon with them?
Will the city increase its police force?
What's their move-in process look like? How many days can they stay?
Will they be allowed to get out of the shelter?
Who will be sent to this shelter? Will it only for Santa Clara City's homeless, or homeless from anywhere can come and live here?
How will the maximum 240 homeless people be managed? By whom? Where does the funding come from?

Once again, we strongly urge you to consider all the issues raised by the community and please DO NOT proceed without properly addressing the problems and concerns raised here.

Sincerely yours,
Michelle Zhang, Hang Liu, Ryan Liu, and Aidan Liu

From:	Peiwen Lyu
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Homeless Shelter at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 8:14:12 PM

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway. As you are aware, this location is within walking distance of several elementary schools, daycares, public parks, and a densely populated residential area consisting of single-family homes, apartments, and senior homes. It is a community where families with young children, students, and senior citizens live and enjoy their daily lives.

While I acknowledge the need to help those living difficult lives, I firmly believe that mixing "the most challenging elements of the population" with the most innocent and vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county and city. The shelter's proposed admission of individuals with prior criminal backgrounds, drug abuse, and mental health issues makes this proposal even more concerning.

Furthermore, the proposed site is adjacent to a section of Lawrence Expressway with significant weekday traffic, which will adversely affect the quality of life of those staying in the shelter. The environmental characteristics, including loud and continuous noise, and proximity to high-volume vehicle traffic, are not conducive to the rehabilitation and stabilization of individuals who have been living on the street.

There are other parcels owned by the county further away from residential areas, which would be more appropriate for a homeless shelter. Additionally, Palo Alto has successfully built a homeless shelter in a non-residential area, providing more space per individual.

Lastly, data-backed research shows that homeless shelters inevitably bring negative impacts to the surrounding neighborhood, such as an increase in crime rates and a decrease in property market value. The county recently converted the previous Bella Vista Inn into a homeless care facility, which is barely half a mile away from the proposed Benton/Lawrence location. It is unfair and unthoughtful to subject communities in the Lawrence/El Camino Real area to another one again.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to vote against any upcoming proposals or projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Best regards,

Wendy Lyu

From:	Shengqian
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Homeless Shelter at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 8:24:24 PM

To the Honorable Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed homeless shelter at the intersection of Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway. I understand the need to provide aid and support to those who are struggling, but I believe that this particular location is unsuitable for such a facility.

The proposed site is in close proximity to several elementary schools, daycares, public parks, and a densely populated residential area that includes single-family homes, apartments, and senior homes. This community is where families with young children, students, and senior citizens live and carry out their daily lives. I fear that mixing vulnerable members of society with individuals who may have a history of criminal activity, drug abuse, and mental health issues in such a setting could endanger the safety of the surrounding community and negatively impact the quality of life of those seeking shelter.

Additionally, the proposed site is situated next to a busy section of Lawrence Expressway with significant weekday traffic, which could pose further challenges to the rehabilitation and stabilization of individuals who have been living on the streets. The environmental characteristics, such as constant noise and proximity to high-volume vehicle traffic, are not conducive to creating a supportive environment for those seeking shelter.

I believe that there are alternative parcels owned by the county that are more suitable for a homeless shelter and would be further away from residential areas. Furthermore, Palo Alto has successfully built a homeless shelter in a non-residential area, providing more space per individual.

Finally, studies have shown that homeless shelters inevitably bring negative impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods, including an increase in crime rates and a decrease in property values. The county recently converted the previous Bella Vista Inn into a homeless care facility, which is barely half a mile away from the proposed Benton/Lawrence location. I believe it would be unfair to subject the Lawrence/El Camino Real area to another shelter and its potential negative impacts.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to vote against any upcoming proposals or projects associated with a homeless shelter at the Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway location.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my objections.

Best regards,

Peter Liu

From:	Kim Short
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; kpark@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Please answer 1 question without canned response
Date:	Saturday, March 11, 2023 4:34:47 PM

Kevin and Consuelo,

Many people have proposed this question and no one from the County or the City have addressed this.

Does the City of Santa Clara or Santa Clara County have a NON-residential location that can be used for this project?

This would be a **win/win** for everyone involved. The reason people don't think you've been listening, is because you haven't answered this question.

Kind Regards,

Kim
[redacted]

From:	mi zhou
To:	cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; Ellenberg, Supervisor
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Please help residents to stop HomeKey project (Lawrence & Benton)
Date:	Wednesday, March 1, 2023 1:34:19 AM

Dear Santa Clara council members,

I am writing this letter to ask your help to stop the HomeKey project near Lawrence & Benton. It brings a big safety concern to the local residents. As a local resident, I understand that people experiencing homelessness is a big issue that our community
needs to solve. However, build things like this in a place close to more than 20 schools
and close to high-density residents is absolutly an irresponsilbe plan. No one would
want to try solve one issue while creates another big safety problem to the community.

City like moutain view, when they build shelter, they built those at industry area,do the screening and does not accept sex offenders. Compare with this project, planned in residential area, no screen and low barrier are needed. Does this sound a careful plan at all? From residents' view, things considered by mountain view should be a minimum requirement for project like this. We don't want to tear down the peaceful community one by one just like what big cities does. It could just potentially attacts more and more people with drug and criminal history coming to this area. So please please help the residents to stop the HomeKey project and keep our community safe. It would be very appreciated if the community's voice can be heard and the project can be stopped! Thanks a lot for your time and help!

Thanks & Regards,
Mi

From:	Dang Clash
To:	supervisor.elenberg@bos.sccgov.org; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; info@abodeservices.org; bray@destinationhomesv.org; Hillary.Barroga@hhs.sccgov.org; dontae.lartigue@razingthebar.org; aurton; bwcmail@billwilsoncenter.org; nohomekeysantaclarasunnyvale@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Please No Benton Shelter!
Date:	Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:30:07 AM
Attachments:	No Benton Shelter_Signed.pdf

Hello Expert,

Please re-consider the project of "Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Shelter".

As a resident of santa clara county I'm very concerned about this project and it's consequences.

Please see my attached signed pdf for my concern.

Thank you,
James

James(Yixuan)Dang

From:	Jie Han
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Please reconsider the shelter proposal at Lawrence & Benton, Santa Clara
Date:	Monday, February 27, 2023 8:10:57 PM

Hello!

My name is Jie Han, a resident of Santa Clara City living in zip code 95050.

I **strongly oppose** building the **low-barrier** container-style homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton. There are more than 20 schools and daycares nearby, many of them are within walking distance. Our kids go across the road every day. They play in the nearby playground and grassland often. Given that shelter is intended to be low-barrier, without screening, and expect many occupants to have crime records and mental issues, it doesn't look like a good idea to have such a shelter so close to our kids to me. wdyt?

Not to mention there is already another shelter, Bella Vista, under construction 0.5 miles away from the proposed site. We don't know yet how that shelter would change the dynamics of the neighborhood, nor do we know if that shelter will run as expected. It's not responsible to add more loads to the community without even a "test run".

Apart from the concerns of impact to local residents, I'm also uncomfortable about the proposed plan of the shelter construction itself. It will be a stretch to host 80-120 units / maximum 240 people with a 1:100 staff/residents ratio as proposed in a small area. And given people living there could have drug and mental issues, the proposal suggests relying on volunteers to help them -- is that really a good enough support plan? Will those people get what they need to recover from the hardship? Or it'll just be yet another build-and-forget project that people don't bother to take a look at after spending the time and money.

I believe many people including myself have more than enough valid reasons to be worried. Many questions have been asked during the Feb 13, 2023 community meetings. I would urge the board/committee/people involved to review and address them first, and to share a solid plan on shelter operation, funding, staffing, as well as procedures and resources planned to ensure the neighborhood safety.

Thank you for reading my email. I hope it could give you some reasons to say no to the shelter proposal when you're asked to make a call.

Best,
Jie Han

From: Zhihao Ji
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Say NO for Lawrence Benton Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:28:28 PM

Hi Consuelo,

I'm a resident who lives about 2 minutes away from the planned site. I'm really **concerned** about this shelter, and strongly **oppose** this plan.

My concerns are:

1. As a local resident, I'm extremely concerned about the safety of my loved ones, my parents and my kids. They walk around the site every day and I don't think this area will be safe again to walk around. Because in the public hearing, they mentioned the **misbehavior** in the shelter before, and I believe a single **misbehavior** is just part of the shelter's normal work, but this will be a **huge loss** for a **family** in the community.

2. As a local resident, I know how much **traffic** is near the Lawrence expressway and benton street. I believe this is also an obvious **danger** for the people living there. So I don't think this is a safe place to build a shelter where many people there could be **drunk**.

I visited the **Branham** homekey site in San Jose, and talked with many **local communities**. **ALL** of them are opposing the Branham site, and as they mentioned, many of their community members have already **moved out** to other cities. They are all extremely **disappointed** and I can feel their **upset**. I don't believe the city wants to sacrifice us, and this definitely is not a win-win situation.

Please please please reconsider the plan, and find another better location for this project.

Thank you!
Zhihao

From: Denisse Locascio
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Project on Benton and Lawrence
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 2:58:19 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: Debbie Dempsey
To: lgillmore@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing Site
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 12:27:09 PM
Attachments: Mayor Gillmore 3-13-2023.pdf

Mayor Gillmore

I adamantly oppose building the interim housing at the Benton/Lawrence location for the reasons expressed in my attached letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dempsey

From: Garick C
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc: Stephanie Watt
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed shelter at Lawrence Expwy and Benton in Santa Clara
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 10:14:54 PM

I am highly opposed to the proposed shelter by LifeMoves at Lawrence Expressway and Benton in Santa Clara and wanted to voice my concerns.

I imagine there's going to be high demand for shelter spaces which will quickly lead to overcrowding. This will then result in cramped living conditions, lack of privacy, and increased risk of spreading illness or infection. (Yes, Covid-19 is still a thing and will be even after May 11th)

Additionally, homeless shelters can also be dangerous places, especially for women and children. They are often filled with drug users, drug dealers and drug sales. Violence and theft are also common problems at shelters in California, which is why many homeless actually choose to avoid them.

And what resources will be provided?Usually shelters can only provide basic necessities like food, shelter, and clothing. Many homeless people also need mental health and substance abuse treatment, job training or other support services. What quality of services will be provided here and will success/failure/recidivism rates be tracked?

Not to mention that homeless shelters are communal living spaces so there's very little privacy for tenants. This can be difficult for people who are trying to cope with trauma or mental health issues.

And shelters are designed to be short-term solutions, typically providing a bed for a few nights or weeks. This means that residents must constantly move from one shelter to another, which can be disruptive and stressful. How is that a solution to anything? How can they take advantage of career or transition back to society services? Where is a path out of poverty and what happens then? Will they simply roam and set up shop in the local neighborhood?

Thank you for hearing my concerns and I hope you will vote not to move forward with this project. As a parent, I am highly concerned for the safety of my children and family.

Sincerely yours,

Garick Chan

From:	Shan-Ting Hsu
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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 7:21:10 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: No Homekey in Birdland Benton
To: Adam Marcus; Hernandez_Consuelo; mjackson@lifemoves.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Q&A Answers not visible
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 10:09:17 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:	R. Elysa Gurman
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Question
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 4:19:50 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: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Questions for Interim Housing
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 11:07:53 PM
Attachments: Opposition Strategy to Lawrence-Benton.docx

Ms. Hernandez,

Thank you to you and your team for providing community comment sessions for the proposed Lawrence/Benton interim housing. For the record, I am in support of this project. I have a few questions I am hoping you will be able to address at Thursday night's meeting. I plan to be in attendance just as I was for the February 13th and March 1st meetings.

1. Where is the money coming from for construction and services of this project? Is it already in hand? What percentage of the costs are to be covered by the city, county, state, other? Has it been budgeted and approved for the approved site wherever it may be? How long is the money available? What happens when/if it is used up?
2. Is there a mandate/law required of the city and/or county to provide a certain amount of rooms/beds and by when? Who has made this mandate? What are the consequences if the numbers are not met?
3. Why is this facility proposed not to include families? Given the proximity to schools, residences, and parks, this would be a perfect place for families and I would encourage a possible change in the proposal of who would be invited into the program. This may help gain more support by families objecting to the project.
4. Does the County Board of Supervisors vote on this first or does the City of Santa Clara? If one says yes and the other says no, what happens? When are the votes to take place?
5. Is there a list of possible sites for this project posted somewhere? Please either provide a link or create the list.
6. Assuming this project is approved, what would the process be for design, construction, and decisions on who will be serviced? Will there be another round of public comment sessions?
7. Please address the law about having convicted pedophiles in a facility such as this. I know there is a law that does not permit pedophiles within a certain amount of distance to schools and parks. Remind people about Megan's Law and how to access the registry. This may calm down some opposition.
8. How will Trans & LBGTQ+ people be made to feel safe and helped? What is the proposal for services for this segment?

I found a copy of the strategy being shared by the opposition to this project and thought it would be helpful to you in planning your presentation for Thursday's meeting and for providing detailed information on the website. Much of what is written is incorrect and inflammatory. This is attached.

As a side note, I want you to be aware that many people who spoke in favor of the project were harassed outside the meeting and as people were dispersing. Some people were directly threatened. I would request that signs and posters not be allowed in the church as they can turn into weapons should the tone of the meeting become even more hostile. Please consider escorting disrupters out of the building to keep a respectful dialogue going and to avoid interruptions. The threat is so real

we have discouraged those who may benefit from this proposal from attending for their own personal safety.

Personally, I don't want to hear from any politicians. They are supposed to remain unbiased and by speaking up last week, they only riled up the audience after they had calmed down. They will all have an opportunity to speak during their respective meetings but should not be allowed to take up public comment time. Kevin Parks suggested he was going to try to get more time before a vote would happen. I strongly discourage this. It will only serve to delay services and housing for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Melinda Berlant
[redacted]
LinkedIn

From:	David Melius
To:	amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mjackson@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Questions for Lawrence and Benton Project
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 2:36:38 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]
Santa Clara, CA 95051
[redacted]

From: 纯舞艺术
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Benton and Lawrence - Schools Follow Up
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 5:12:45 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image003.png

Hello Ms Hernandez,

Thanks for getting back to me. As for the schools, it's a fact that 15 schools are within 1.5 mile from the Benton location, and it will be a much larger number if you count in 20+ daycares and after schools. As for the Braham location, it was a reckless decision and horrible mistake made by the city of San Jose, which should never be repeated by the city of Santa Clara, or any other cities.

I do have a few questions and suggestions for the third community meeting:
Can I know the format for the 3rd meeting?

Also, will questions from the first and second meetings be answered? Specifically, the questions regarding safety for the community:
- what's your screening process
- who will manage the shelter on a daily basis, how many staff
- who will bear the operation cost
- how will you make sure sex offenders will not live here

I'd like to see all the questions and detailed answers being published on your website at least a day before the 3rd meeting.

In addition, can we extend the meeting to 2.5 hours, given so many people were preparing to speak during the 2nd meeting?

Thank you,

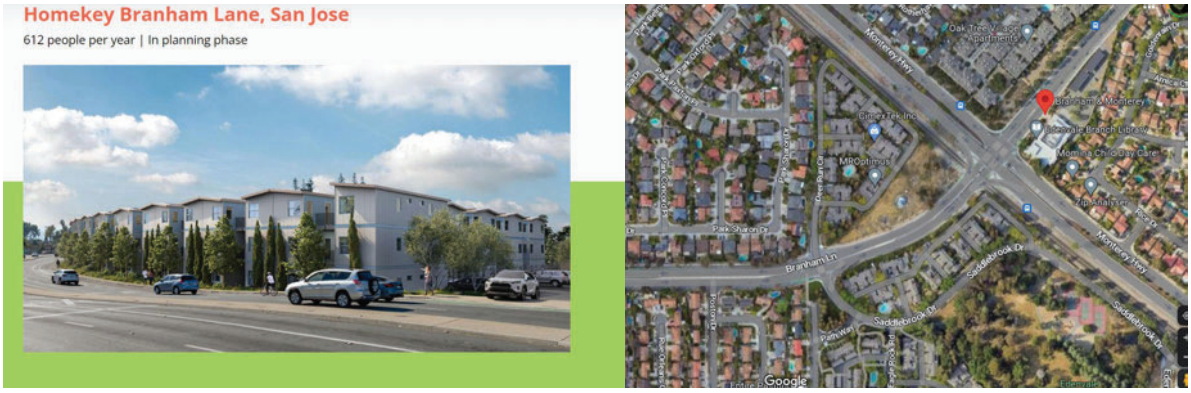
Cindy

On Wed, Mar 1, 2023 at 11:54 PM Hernandez, Consuelo <Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org> wrote:

> Good Evening Cindy,
>
> Thank you for sharing your information with me this evening. I let the City team know about our conversation and they are going to check the data around schools. It would be great if we could set up a time to chat with you and others you would like to invite to focus on sharing our data around schools. I am happy to offer a zoom option or can also meet in person.
>
> Separately, the paper where you wrote down your contact information is the community generated flyer that shows the schools and on the back is information about the other two LifeMoves sites. I said this during the meeting but wanted to share it with you here. San Jose is building the largest interim housing of this type. Below are the details and the map

showing the neighborhood is similar to Santa Clara. We will add this to our next power point presentation but wanted to share with you in advance.

City of San Jose – Branham and Monterey 208 Units – the largest project in the Interim Housing Pipeline. The pin on the map is the Library and the vacant parcel



Thank you and look forward to learning more about your concerns and whether there are things we can do to modify the proposal to assuage these concerns.

Consuelo Hernandez

Director, Office of Supportive Housing

(408) 510-8595

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From: Judy Crates
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc: Adam Marcus; Marie Jackson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Benton and Lawrence Updates - New Information Posted to the Project Website
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023 3:30:59 PM

This is a key article that all should forward to City Council:

From the Mountain View Voice 3/30/23. It gives details on why this should not be allowed in Santa Clara on Benton and Lawrence!

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

Judy Crates

On Fri, Mar 10, 2023 at 1:05 AM 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 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

(408) 510-8595

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From: Joseph Dang
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc: Adam Marcus; Marie Jackson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Benton and Lawrence Updates - New Information Posted to the Project Website
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 7:37:10 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 <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 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
> (408) 510-8595

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From: Quyen Dang
To: Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc: Mike Loomis; Quyen Dang
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Benton interim housing support - questions for community meetings
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 4:19:50 PM

Resending with Consuelo's email corrected

> Hi Consuelo, Andrew,
>
> First, thank you for providing your contact info to send questions in advance of the community meetings.
>
> I'd appreciate your response at or as soon as possible after tomorrow's meeting for the following questions/requests. Some of these have already been brought up at the first meeting. Capturing here again in case they haven't already been answered. I could not find the list of questions and answers from meeting # 1. Not sure if I missed it on the website when I skimmed thru the prior meeting materials:
>
> Recording of Meeting 1
> Slide Deck from Meeting 1 (PDF)
>
> Thank you for your consideration and taking my concerns constructively.
>
> - Q
>
> 1. Please provide like for like data for review
>   - Citing Mountain View as an example is relevant if the layout of project, neighborhood, #s of schools, location (industrial vs. commercial vs. residential), etc. are similar
>   - I'd would not want to compare shelter metrics that house families and sr. citizens if that is not the intended demographic for the proposed Benton facility
>
> 2. Looking to get a better understanding of this process.
>   - Is there a # or metric the task force adheres to when deciding what to propose back to the council? E.g. any unofficial poll tracked on the Zoom, etc? It sounds like there are 3 total community meetings, but does the task force retain the power to override despite community feedback? What happens after you make a proposal to council. Is there a vote? By who? Is the community meeting the only opportunity to influence; not to vote?
>
> 3. What is the proposed layout of the facility? High density multi-level complex at 3+ levels? If that high level detail is not known at this time, how can we be expected to factor into our decision making process?

4. It does not seem logical to expect the community to provide feedback or support their positions between 2/13 – 3/9 (less than 4 weeks). Very little data seemed to be available to address questions on 2/13. The response to questions posed at 2/13 meeting was that the requested data would be provided at the next meeting on 3/1. Assuming all the requested data is provided tomorrow, 3/1, that leaves 8 days until 3/9 for the community to really review data before the final community meeting.

5. Greenberg's response about having 1+ staff at the facility to handle incidents (at facility). Please define "handle"? What are their qualifications to "handle"?
    - For the estimated # of ppl planned at a given time in that sq. foot facility, has any analysis or forecast been done to model increased police support in adjacent areas for increased density of ppl living in the small area? Funding? Response time? What is the plan to enforce (not by a LifeMoves staff member)?
    - Is facility funding is from grants? Is there any study about costs to community for infrastructure that is not directly related to the facility? E.g. will city residents see increased taxes to support the local police, fire services, community parks and rec upkeep, or something?

6. Any info or pointers to get data re. impact to cost of renter, homeowner insurance in other places that have had similar facilities?

7. Greenberg wants low barriers to entry and expects people not to be excluded for criminal records.
    - Any screening **at all**? Are there any scenarios for disqualification? Are ppl w/ criminal record of violent/assault treated the same as someone with a felony DUI? What's the screening and minimal reqmts that constitute the "barrier to entry"? Who's enforcing this? Is there funding and infrastructure in place to enable the screening? What existing procedures or mitigation plan if ever had to "evict" someone at another location? Once doors open is it a done deal? What recourse do we have as residents?

8. If Bella Vista is to be an interim housing shelter for 1-2 years prior to converting to long term shelter, then why can't more time be allowed to see initial findings and come back to council with a more thoughtful recommendation. The process seems to be rushed with minimal studies or data made available to the community that can be used to inform different scenarios and weigh options. It's coming across like a Yes or No question that we're stuck with no consideration for nuances, alternatives, or mitigation plans.

Lastly, please provide the list of questions and answers from meeting # 1. As mentioned above, I could not find a handy link.

Thanks again!

From: Dawn Thompson
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc: Adam Marcus; Marie Jackson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway - Community Meeting Update
Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023 6:49:57 PM

Hi Consuelo,

Thank you for this email reminder. This project is so important to our community. We would truly have appreciated it being accessible on Zoom. We hope you will be able to make that happen for the next meetings.

There is much discussion (challenging) on Nextdoor regarding this issue. We feel it is important to be able to share our thoughts, hopes and concerns in a forum that is safe and professional.

We hope you will be able to make that happen. And unfortunately, we were unable to attend as we had Covid for the first time and wanted to be respectful of others.

Sincerely,
Tim and Dawn Thompson
Lifelong residents of Sunnyvale/Santa Clara

On Wed, Mar 1, 2023, 2:29 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 on Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway. We hope to see you this evening in person to learn more about the opportunity and share responses from the Development team on questions and concerns raised by the community during meeting No. 1.
>
> The meeting details can be found below:
>
> **Join us for a Community Meeting!**
>
> **Wednesday, March 1, 2023 | 6:00-8:00PM**
>
> Mission City Church
> 1290 Pomeroy Avenue
> Santa Clara, CA 95051
>
> If you are unable to attend, please note we will be publishing the meeting materials and recording of the meeting on the project website tomorrow. A few FAQs have also been

posted to the website and we are working on publishing the 300+ comments and questions from the first community meeting.

Finally, the Development team is also working on exploring a hybrid option for community meeting number 3 and scheduling a 4th community meeting that will be held via zoom to accommodate those that are unable to participate in person.

We appreciate your continued engagement.

Thank you,

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

Director, Office of Supportive Housing

(408) 510-8595

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From: Sunny Chow
To: mjackson@lifemoves.org; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Benton/Homekey project - question - admission requirements
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 11:16:01 PM

Hello again -

I imagine you both are very busy responding to emails concerning this project. I've gone through the current question/answer checklist, but didn't find an answer to my question yet. Whenever possible, could you also spare a moment to help answer my question too?

Thanks,
Sunny.

On Thu, Mar 9, 2023 at 9:11 AM Sunny Chow <skchow@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi there -
>
> I'm a concerned neighbor living on the corner of Benton/Pomeroy. I have a question regarding entry requirements as a recent statement of "low barrier of entry" has generated a considerable amount of community concern.
>
> At the Mountain View Homekey project - the admissions criteria was stated in public notices as follows:
>
> "Access to the facility: Admission will be via referral only. Access is provided to the broader County system that will work to assist by geo graphic area; The goal is local access to shelter wherever possible. Priority will be given to individuals referred from the local area, by qualified EAN providers including Mountain View Police and CSA. Please email homekey@lifemoves.org for information about future referrals and admissions in early spring 2021."
>
> Will this site have the same admissions guidelines? If not - how does this compare to similar sites with similar scales, such as the one at Milpitas?
>
> Thanks!
> Sunny.

From:	Jean
To:	mjackson@lifemoves.org; Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; MayorandCouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Re: Lawrence and Benton Interim Shelter Comment
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:38:33 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:	Ashish Verma
To:	Adam Marcus
Cc:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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 8:17:42 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 <amarcus@santaclaraca.gov> 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
(408) 615-2491
amarcus@SantaClaraCA.gov

From: Ashish Verma [redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 12:35 PM
To: Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org; Adam Marcus <amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov>
Cc: Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>; supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org; Supervisor.Lee@bos.sccgov.org
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:	Ashish Verma
To:	Adam Marcus; Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	Santa Clara CITY Council; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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 10:45:55 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.

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>
> Adam Marcus (he/him)
>
> City of Santa Clara
> Housing & Community Services Division
> (408) 615-2491
> amarcus@SantaClaraCA.gov
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Ashish Verma [redacted]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 12:35 PM
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Note yet covered on FAQ

Regards,

Ashish

From:	No Homekey in Birdland Benton
To:	Adam Marcus
Cc:	mjackson@lifemoves.org; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Re: Misleading information from SC city council and county supervisors
Date:	Friday, March 3, 2023 8:42:12 PM

Thank you. We will review the project page. Would it be possible to provide a view that doesn't require clicking on each '+' sign? It only allows us to view one question/response at a time. Capturing and sharing that information with the community, especially the non-technical members and those requiring translation, can be quite difficult.

We've been on the email notification for about a week but have not received any communications to date. Were any sent?

Thank you

On Fri, Mar 3, 2023 at 4:28 PM Adam Marcus <amarcus@santaclaraca.gov> wrote:

> Thank you Birdland Neighbors SE, your message has been received. We will review it and include it in the public record. Please be advised that the project webpage has been updated with responses, slides, and recordings from the first two meetings. We will post more responses on Monday and next week. I encourage you to sign up on the County's email notification list if you haven't already. You can sign up at the project webpage below:
>
> https://osh.sccgov.org/project-homekey-scc/benton#3925188384-2744796317
>
> I look forward to hopefully meeting you next week at meeting #3:
>
> **Thursday, March 9, 2023 | 6:00-8:00PM**
>
> Mission City Church
> 1290 Pomeroy Avenue
> Santa Clara, CA 95051
>
> **Adam Marcus**
> Division Manager
>
> Community Development Department
> Housing & Community Services Division
> 1500 Warburton Avenue | Santa Clara, CA 95050

Phone: (408) 615-2491 Email: amarcus@SantaClaraCA.gov

City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

From: No Homekey in Birdland Benton [redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Adam Marcus <amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov>
Cc: mjackson@lifemoves.org; Karen Hardy <KHardy@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Kevin Park <KPark@Santaclaraca.gov>; Russ Melton <meltoncouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov>; Mayor and Council <MAYORANDCOUNCIL@SantaClaraCA.gov>; Lisa Gillmor <LGillmor@SantaClaraCA.gov>; info@rokhanna.com; vravikumar@bayareanewsgroup.com; consuelo.hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org
Subject: Misleading information from SC city council and county supervisors

Mr. Marcus,

A number of Santa Clara city council members stated that the city has no say in which location is selected for an interim shelter, yet the county website states that both Santa Clara city and county asked their staff to look for properties and prepare a proposal without considering or consulting with the local, tax-paying residents. Is it true that Santa Clara really has no say?

The city canceled the White Oak project and claims that Benton, a half mile to the south, is a better option because it is county property. This also implies that the Ponderosa neighborhood's concern actually had no impact on the decision. It also implies that the future operating costs are irrelevant. Now, you're dealing with Birdland which has an even greater concern and much louder voice. However, you have conveniently failed to inform the Birdland Neighborhood which is directly across the street from the proposed facility.

It is inappropriate and potentially illegal to mislead and/or block information from reaching taxpayers and voters. We are certain we can find a law that protects us and was not overridden by Project Homekey's Covid Emergency temporary laws, a state of emergency that has recently expired.

While we are certain this is one of many hundreds of emails you've received on the subject, we would like to share few of our concerns about the misinformation and misleading public statements on county and city websites and in recent meetings:

- Ms. Hernandez' statement that homelessness increased in Santa Clara by 35% in Santa Clara is misleading and poor justification for building interim housing. Starting from a small number always results in a larger change. e.g. 3/10 is 30%.

- Ms. Hernandez is also leaving out the fact that San Jose, San Francisco, and other large cities pushed their homeless out of their cities and camps (e.g. Guadalupe River encampments, North San Jose encampments near Apple property, Cupertino/280 encampments, West San Jose/280 encampments) into surrounding easy-access towns, including Santa Clara. Therefore, their numbers decreased while ours increased.

- Please advise, given that Ms. Hernandez' email address is a .org, not .gov, is she employed by the county government or is hhs.sccgov.org a separate entity? We would like to confirm that we are communicating with the government representative of this project and understand the management structure and contractors involved. Thank you.

- There are claims that the 'unhoused' population that recently landed on our streets and creeks are locals. This is false. That would imply that Santa Clara suddenly produced a significant number of citizens with issues. It did not. Santa Clara, SCVW, and the state/county have created a magnet for the homeless and provide easy access, especially at the borders to other cities. Public Safety confirmed most are not from here and has stated that their hands are tied. Arrest records also show that most are not local to Santa Clara. Please prove to us that this sudden increase of homeless individuals came from Santa Clara. Show us the complete and factual data history of each individual, anonymized if not part of public record, of course, and let us draw our own conclusions.

- Moratoriums on evictions have only recently been lifted. We cannot conclude that locals who were recently unemployed during the pandemic are now homeless. Please show us the data.

- Bella Vista, another Homeky project that quietly slipped past the community, will house more than two hundred homeless or low/no-income homeless. That hotel was already housing prostitution, drug deals, and whatnot (see Arrest Records and Crimereports.com on LexisNexis). This, plus the new project will bring the number to 300-400 within a 1/4 mile radius (please provide the projected numbers). The area is already losing businesses and is seeing a significant increase in crime. Can this area handle another 200 given how poorly the current situation is being managed? We don't go to that Walgreens anymore. It's frightening. They'll

probably be gone soon.

- Claiming that Santa Clara city needs to house more drug addicts, repeat offenders/criminals and parolees, and individuals with serious mental or personality disorders is exacerbating the issue. Placing 120-200 of them in 'stacked containers' on a 1 acre parcel, across from liquor and convenience stores, next to an expressway, a hundred yards (or feet in some cases) from community swimming pools, parks, churches, and schools in an area where they will never find a job is as unfair and abusive to them as it is to local residents. It's a fact that homeless shelters attract homeless and trouble. People have friends, patrons, dealers that they'll need to meet with in the minimart parking lot since they won't be allowed to invite them into their tiny home complex.

- Isolating these individuals from the services they need and unloading the responsibilities onto local public safety and middle income families that are already struggling to afford living near work is irresponsible and kicking the can down the road. Expecting them to jump on public transit to visit their social worker in another part of the county is a pipe dream. They will more likely be tempted to panhandle or steal from neighboring properties. It will only increase their chances of breaking laws, future incarceration and perpetuation of their dangerous lifestyle. Do we leave an open bottle of vodka in the same room with a recovering alcoholic? No!

- We all knew of a few kids in high school that chose to party rather than to work hard and study. They had the same standard of living and opportunities as the rest of us. In fact, I know of one that partied and dealt drugs, committed armed robbery, is homeless living under a building in Folsom, attempted to burn down that building, and is in and out of the county jail. He would likely tell you himself that you wouldn't want him as a neighbor. His family and county services tried to help him as a teenager. Unfortunately, he was enabled rather than discouraged and treated. He doesn't belong in a strange neighborhood. He needs psychiatric treatment in a location far removed from where he can do harm to himself or others. There is a reason rehab facilities are in remote, peaceful areas where distractions, temptations, and easy access to illegal drugs are at a minimum.

- Claims that crime won't increase and home values won't decrease are not based on complete facts. We wouldn't buy here knowing there will be an interim housing facility for previously unhoused is across the street. We estimate a loss of between $100k and $500k for my own home's value. Multiply that by at least 400 homes of those represented at recent meetings and you have a combined loss of $40 million to $200 million, which far exceeds the project that will cost at least $30 million.

- We will no longer be able to walk our children to school, dog to the park, or stop at the Walgreen's for medicine. We are afraid. We're an outdoorsy neighborhood. This will only lock us indoors and cause people to purchase guns for self-protection, the exact opposite of what we as Californians want. New neighbors are going to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars, not just because of the impending recession, but because NO young families are going to purchase a home near a homeless shelter. Please show us the complete analysis or give us the raw data

and we'll do our own analysis of potential home values. Show us data of similar neighborhoods that ended up with homeless shelters within their community, pre pandemic. The data doesn't exist, because most cities don't place them in neighborhoods and the Homekey project is the first of its kind to override zoning and existing laws/regulations. The SF housing authority figured out in the 70's and 80's that projects of the 1950's congregating a large number of low or no income individuals in a confined area resulted in very high crime. We don't want to live in SF nor do we want our community to resemble it.

- It is alarming that yet another mass homeless housing development is being proposed at the edge of town next to the border of Sunnyvale rather than near Santa Clara University, light industrial, and large corporations with loud voices. It seems we have a 'keep the center of Santa Clara beautiful' situation. We work at those large corporations and they likely don't want us living in dangerous areas. It's only a matter of time before more companies and their employees choose to relocate to other states due to high taxes that are being spent on projects such as Homekey which simply attracts more troubled individuals and criminals from other parts of the country and world.

- Some of us volunteered at Joint Venture Silicon Valley 20 years ago. Our goal was to help bring job opportunities to this area. We're disappointed and concerned with what we're seeing and hearing about the relationship and influence between Santa Clara leaders, JVSV and Sobrato. Please explain more about this relationship.

- We should be sending the homeless back home to their own families and communities to handle, not inviting them to enjoy free shelter, food, and services funded by local taxpayers. The non-profits and large developers with 'philanthropic' arms are simply perpetuating and enabling the issue, not to mention, landing significant contracts to pay their commercial organizations and contractors to build shelters near existing homes.

- It is the county's and city's job to provide factual data and evidence that crime does not increase in or near a homeless shelter. It is also their job to represent us, the people that pay you. We're an audience of middle income technology workers, engineers, analysts, and executives that couldn't afford to live in Los Altos, Monte Sereno, or Los Gatos. Both parents work 10-12 hour days and have massive mortgages and property tax bills while trying to raise families. We do not live in luxury. Our only guilty pleasures are the ability to take our kids and dogs for walks to the parks in the evening. We're talking about teaching self defense.

- We have several senior citizens in this area in addition to the young families. They are not wealthy. The county would likely love to see them move so that property taxes can increase beyond Prop 13 protections. Unfortunately, in addition to the pending recession, this project has already damaged property resale values and their nest eggs they've worked their entire lives to build.

- The meeting on Mar 1 did not address any of our questions. It simply restated what was already presented during the virtual meeting and angered the local community. In addition, the facility was not large enough. The meeting was very poorly managed and displayed complete disregard for the community. **It is inappropriate to expect a project manager to manage a community discussion about a project that will cause millions of dollars in losses and safety issues for local residents.** We recommend you bring in higher level leadership that can answer questions and properly manage a crowd of very smart people with tough questions. Please tell us how many were in attendance and how many could not get in due to fire codes?

We have never seen this neighborhood and community so angered. This situation already has people discussing future elections, political parties, and laws even though most of this area has been accommodating and moderate. If any of this project moves forward as is, there will be ongoing challenges for both sides. Let's think outside the box and not put our homeless into tiny boxes that resemble prison cells next door to our schools and parks. It is simply incomprehensible that the county, a non-profit, and our governor assume they can trample on the rights of those who pay them and likely voted them into office. No one wants to see anyone fail or lose their job.

We look forward to you addressing all of our concerns and showing us alternate, sensible solutions and appropriate use of this county airports and roads equipment parking lot and for properly caring for our own community's struggling population. Please stop asking the community to come up with alternatives. That is your job. Not ours.

Thank you.

Birdland Neighbors SE

Note: This email is not approved for publication. We welcome you to request an interview with our public representation.

Benton and Lawrence - Office of Supportive Housing - County of Santa Clara

osh.sccgov.org

In July 2021, the City of Santa Clara's City Council asked the staff to find a site to house unhoused people. They wanted to apply for state funding that would be available for that use. Soon after, the 2022 Santa Clara County Homeless Census and Survey reported that homelessness in Santa Clara increased by 35% from 2019 to 2022. Then, Santa Clara's Homelessness Task Force reported that Santa Clara does not have enough interim housing for unhoused people. The need is clear.

Around the same time, the County's Board of Supervisors told staff to look for County-owned land that could be used for interim housing. ...

From: Kim M
To: Adam Marcus
Cc: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Recording/Slides from 2/13 meeting
Date: Sunday, February 19, 2023 6:50:43 PM

Thank you!

Can you please answer the questions:
1) What efforts were taken to inform Santa Clara residents of this initiative (time line)?

2) What criteria was taken into account on who would be notified directly (not via next door) and specifically city outreach/initiatives)?

3) How will the success of this program be measured?

4) What other locations within Santa Clara are in consideration?

Kim

> On Feb 17, 2023, at 1:45 PM, Adam Marcus <amarcus@santaclaraca.gov> wrote:
>
> Hello Ms. Murphy, you can find the recording and other information on the project webpage at:
>
> https://osh.sccgov.org/project-homekey-scc/benton
>
> The County will be adding frequently asked questions next week.
> Thanks,
>
> **Adam Marcus**
> Division Manager
> Community Development Department
> Housing & Community Services Division
> 1500 Warburton Avenue | Santa Clara, CA 95050
> Phone: (408) 615-2491 Email: amarcus@SantaClaraCA.gov
>
> <image001.jpg>
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Kim Murphy [redacted]
> **Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 1:02 PM
> **To:** consuelo.hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org; Adam Marcus <amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov>

Subject: Re: Recording/Slides from 2/13 meeting

Hi! Can you please share the recording link and presentation that was used for the 2/13 meeting RE: Temp Housing at Lawrence/Benton? Where can we find answers to the questions that were not addressed?

KMF

From: Asha DuMonthier
To: Adam Marcus
Cc: mjackson@lifemoves.org; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Support for interim housing at Lawrence and Benton
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 10:28:22 AM

Thank you, Adam. Is there a virtual attendance option for the meetings this Wed and next Thurs?

On Mon, Feb 27, 2023 at 5:36 PM Adam Marcus <amarcus@santaclaraca.gov> wrote:

> Thank you Ms. DuMonthier for your comments. I recommend that you visit the County's project webpage for more information, frequently asked questions (coming soon), prior meeting materials, and to sign up for email updates. Also, please see below for information on two upcoming in-person meetings.
>
> ## Wednesday, March 1, 2023 | 6:00-8:00PM
>
> Mission City Church
> 1290 Pomeroy Avenue
> Santa Clara, CA 95051
>
> ## Thursday, March 9, 2023 | 6:00-8:00PM
>
> Mission City Church
> 1290 Pomeroy Avenue
> Santa Clara, CA 95051
>
> Best Regards,
>
> **Adam Marcus**
> Division Manager
>
> Community Development Department
> Housing & Community Services Division
> 1500 Warburton Avenue | Santa Clara, CA 95050
> Phone: (408) 615-2491 Email: amarcus@SantaClaraCA.gov

City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

From: Asha DuMonthier [redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 4:32 PM
To: mjackson@lifemoves.org; consuelo.hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org; Adam Marcus <amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov>
Subject: Support for interim housing at Lawrence and Benton

Hello City of Santa Clara and Santa Clara County staff and LiveMoves Staff,

I am writing to express my strong support of the Proposed Temporary Housing on Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway and to urge you to pursue the project.

I grew up and currently live in Pomeroy West (located on Pomeroy Ave. and Benton Street). I have witnessed firsthand the growing need for improved housing and supportive services in our city. One of the neighbors I grew up with at Pomeroy West who I'll call Dan for his privacy, became unhoused several years ago and regularly parks around the City in search of a safe place to sleep each night. Dan and his partner are both disabled and struggle to afford the medical care they need, let alone find housing. Recently, Dan's partner's wheelchair was stolen off of the street where they were parked and she can no longer move outside of the vehicle they live in. Seeing someone who helped my parents out when I was a child, now suffering without housing or needed medical assistance, is a heart-breaking reality that hits whenever I see him and his partner around the city. Interim housing in the City of Santa Clara could provide crucial assistance to people like Dan who are life-long Santa Clarans in need of support.

Of course, Dan is not alone. The number of visibly unsheltered people in my neighborhood has increased dramatically over the past few years. When I walk to Central Park, or the grocery store, it is highly unusual to *not* see an unhoused person. When I was a child in the area, seeing an unhoused person was a rarity.

I have a Master in Public Policy degree from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley and have written two published reports on housing, including one specifically about homelessness. The only evidence-backed way to reduce homelessness in the long-term is to invest in supportive housing. The longer communities postpone creating supportive housing, the more people end up on the streets, creating health and safety problems. There is extensive research that indicates that investing in supportive housing reduces public costs related to incarceration and health care, in addition to helping vulnerable individuals achieve stability. By investing in housing and supportive services at Lawrence and Benton, the City and the County will help make the area safer, more equitable, and more sustainable for all residents in the long-run.

I live half a mile away from the proposed location of the project and support the choice of that location for the shelter because the land is currently underutilized and I believe that every neighborhood needs to be part of the solution to the housing crisis. Currently, the land is used twice a year for Christmas Trees and Pumpkins - products that are available in many other locations around the city. What the city does not currently have, is a shelter for the unhoused. It is undeniably more important from a moral standpoint, equity standpoint, and public resource efficiency standpoint, to provide housing rather than pumpkins. The housing shortage in our area is severe enough that every neighborhood must be part of the solution--ours included.

Please put our most vulnerable residents first and support the proposed interim housing at Lawrence and Benton so that we can make progress toward solving our housing crisis. **Also, please let me know how I can support your efforts in making sure that this project happens despite some of the vocal residents organizing against it!**

Sincerely,

Asha DuMonthier
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 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:	Ashish Verma
To:	clerk@santaclara.gov
Cc:	Santa Clara CITY Council; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Safety First - Propose alternate options for Lawrence/Benton instead of Homeless Shelter
Date:	Tuesday, March 7, 2023 1:30:06 PM

Dear Clerk,
Please help put this in front of our Mayor and council members in today's meeting.

_____

Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am strongly opposed to the Lawrence/Benton low entry barrier homeless shelter development. I believe this development is wrong for Santa Clara, wrong for the Benton location specifically and also wrong for its intended patrons. **I urge the City Council to cease consideration of this project**, due to the following main reasons:

1. Safety of residents and patrons

2. Proximity to more than 10 schools and over 7,000 school children (in 1.5 miles)

I also propose an alternative option for the site to have a low-income rent-to-own housing project for teachers, retail workers or hospital staff. I am a member of Safe Santa Clara County association where we are aligned on our concern as well as the alternate option.

Safety of residents as well as patrons

The proposed location poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft. away. The data shows that crime increases by 56% within 100m, and the negative effects are highly 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 incidents have increased to 3 times of what they were when the facility was a hotel.** Note that the Milpitas HomeKey project is not yet a no-screen, low barrier shelter. The comparison 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 had asked for such data in both sessions but we haven't been provided with any information and ultimately found this in a public domain. Here is the video recording (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BR0sffdNLg). The update starts at 2:37:35. At around 2:57;58, the mayor concludes that the level of crime at the facility is unacceptable**.**
The site is at the intersection of a very busy expressway, with a liquor store across the street, posing significant risk to the patrons (some of whom may have mental disabilities).

Proximity to schools

The proposed location poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby schools, especially as it is located at the

center of more than 10 schools with 7,471 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to establish a shelter for "*the most challenging elements of the population*" 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.**

County providing misleading and wrong information

We are also deeply disappointed to discover that we have been provided misleading and false information in their communications regarding the proposed shelter. During the first meeting, officials from the county and LifeMoves didn't even know how many schools were located near the proposed shelter, indicating a lack of research and preparation. Even more concerning is that in the second 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 11, almost three times of 4, not including daycares and after-school programs.**

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 misleading, as the Branham and Monterey location is not yet operational and we don't understand its impact on crime rates or safety yet**. Additionally, the impact on the safety of schools near the Benton location will be significantly greater than that of the Branham location, as data shows there are 11 schools with a total student population of 7,417 within 1.5 miles of Benton, compared to only three schools and 1,116 students near Branham. **This risk and potential consequences of the Benton location will be 7 times greater than that of Branham**, and this doesn't even include the students from daycares and after-school programs, as well as teachers and staff.

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	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
Total student population		**7,417**

	Branham and Monterey shelter	Proposed Benton shelter
Number of schools within 1.5 miles	3	12

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	**7,417**

Stereotyping residents and taxpayers

We are also deeply disappointed by the misinterpretation and biased understanding of our concerns for safety. The comments from certain officials in prior sessions portrayed us, the taxpayers and voters, as selfish middle-class individuals who prioritize our property value over others' lives. The truth is, we are parents, spouses, sons, and daughters who are fighting to protect our families and loved ones. We urge the city and county officials to initiate a constructive conversation and leverage the creativity of talented residents to make our community a better place for everyone.

Alternative plan for Benton

In fact, we are actively seeking alternative ways to help the unhoused population by proposing alternative uses for the land. **Majority of residents are proposing a low-income rent-to-own housing project for teachers, hospital staff and retail workers** who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live in this expensive city. 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.

Safe Santa Clara County 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 and LifeMoves.

Regards,
Ashish, Safe Santa Clara County

From: Xufei Wang
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Safety
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:18:04 PM

Hi Consuelo,

I have been a Santa Clara resident for nearly 9 years. I thought our community was safe and it indeed is, until one day that totally changed my mind. At around 12:30 am in the morning of Feb 08 2023, we as a family with three kids at 4, 6, 8 years old, became the victims of an attempted break-in into our house. I didn't know how to explain this to our kids until now.

If not because of the protection of the iron door, we could have been killed in our sleep.

The proposed site at Benton St & Lawrence Expy for a homeless shelter is just 200 feet away from us. I am really concerned about the safety going forward, what if an accident happened to my kids. I just can't imagine that.

I totally understand the government wants to solve the homeless problem and that is for the good of our whole community.

Yesterday I met a guy from Milpitas at our Santa Clara Community Center at Central Park, he told me that the Milpitas homeless shelter has been turned into a hubspot of criminals and drug dealers.

Considering the site is hugely populated with 17 schools within 1 mile range, not to mention the parks, churches and library we visit frequently. Can my kids and other kids play safely like before, this is a question.

I think, as a whole, the residents and government will find a solution that works out for all. We need a little more patience and creativity. Please double think about the proposal and our concerns, then I believe you will make a good decision.

Best,
Xufei Wang

From:	Craig Mortensen
To:	khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Supervisor.Lee; Ellenberg, Supervisor; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	NoHomeKeySantaClaraSunnyvale@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Santa Clara Valley Water District & Shelter @ Benton&Lawrence
Date:	Wednesday, March 1, 2023 8:47:38 AM

To Representatives of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

I oppose building another homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton location because:

1) The **Calabazas Creek** (which borders the proposed site @ Benton&Lawrence) runs through our neighborhood that will be effected by the shelter. People do trespass in this creek and often break into our houses that border the creek. My house borders the creek. I often have to call the police to come out and make people leave. If the shelter goes through, we WILL find more people in this creek using it as a place to sell drugs, use it as a thoroughfare, and hangout.

2) Bella Vista, only 0.5 miles away, is already being converted into a facility for the homeless. The characteristics of the location & method of modular construction (stacked-up container-style tiny houses) are identical to White Oak Lane project, **rejected in 2021** by the City of Santa Clara based on safety and other serious concerns. Forfeit of a playground, seasonal pumpkin patch & Christmas tree shopping for kids at all ages. Shelter 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.

The project lacks transparency and outreach efforts.

It is with that said that I request that you vote **NO** on this project: Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Service Enriched Shelter

Craig Mortensen
[redacted] Santa Clara

From:	Anne Hausler
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Save Our Neighborhood
Date:	Tuesday, February 28, 2023 9:32:16 PM

Dear Consuelo:

I'm writing you today as a concerned tax paying resident in the City of Santa Clara across the street from the proposed site for the emergency shelter on Lawrence Expressway and Benton Street in Santa Clara. (Sobrato and LifeMoves project)

I have lived in this neighborhood 30 years and purposely moved here for the community and safety of my family. I am very concerned about the development of this shelter across the street. My property has already been vandalized multiple times . My car has been broken into and did not have any valuables in site. My neighbors have had their cars broken into multiple times. Homeless people have slept outside my front door as well as the carport and linger on the property throughout the day. We also have an ice cream truck that comes down the street at dusk regularly even during the cold of winter and stops to make a few quick drop offs along Flora Vista. It's adults on the receiving end, not children.

We established a neighborhood watch program to help mitigate these activities. We regularly report incidents to the Santa Clara Police Department and several of my neighbors on the property have installed cameras. Despite these measures, we continue to have criminal activity on our property. Last week, my neighbor shared a video of someone walking through our carports trying to open car doors. These activities have got to stop.

I feel for people in need and they do need help. I donate to my church in the neighborhood that feeds people daily, provides clothing, necessities and other support.

Building a shelter across the street is not the answer. It masks the problem. It also sends a message inviting others outside the City of Santa Clara and the State of California to come here for free housing, food and other support on tax payer dollars as well as the freedom to steal, damage property and deal drugs. That is not acceptable.

I believe in supporting people to get the care and attention they need to get back on their feet. The location for this shelter makes absolutely no sense. It's in the middle of housing developments, multiple churches and schools putting our residents, children and property in a high risk zone. This is absolutely unacceptable.

I am certain there is a better solution for Santa Clara County, The City of Santa Clara, Sobrato and LifeMoves to resolve this shelter matter. Rather than creating this initial plan and disrupting the neighborhood, it would be much wiser to get the public involved in a very different way. We have creative people in our communities throughout Silicon Valley and it's time for local government to learn how to engage people in developing solutions that make sense. Local businesses have been successful with problem solving for years by inviting employees and the public to come up with viable solutions. It's like a hackathon. Acknowledge a real problem, get people involved beyond city, county and state government for real collaboration to develop a more viable and productive solution. I'd bet our schools have more creative and thought provoking minds to contribute to the discussion and focus on solving the real problem.

Best regards,

Anne Hausler

From:	Fay Dustin
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Say No to Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 5:04:27 PM

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale:

My name is Fay, and I am a resident of Santa Clara. I am writing to you not only to represent myself but also my neighborhood and the 5,000 local residents who signed the petition that rejects the proposed shelter at Benton & Lawrence. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote NO as our representative.

In the last community public hearing (the 4th public hearing), the county conducted a live poll in the meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. We urge you to represent the local resident, and not against them.

There are 9 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 and this is not fair to the 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, considering potential residences are on foot and a lot of them have serious mental or physical illness.
7. The busy intersection at Benton & Lawrence Expressway creates great danger for people who have mental health issues or with alcohol and drug addict's issues.
8. County providing false and misleading information.
9. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date and decisions should NOT be made in a rush.

In addition, I have more concern as to how false and misleading information has been shared by the county and its representatives during the 4 public hearings.

And therefore, I would like to remind you of the FSAA (False Statement Accountability Act) that was issued by the United States Department of Justice in 1996. Government officials will be held accountable and liable for any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any material false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

During all 4 of the public hearings (that have been recorded), false statements were noted by the public (e.g. No. of schools nearby, housing value impact, crime rate...) all this information contains false statements which have misled the public for their decision making. We reserve the right to take further actions on this. And I hope you will make your decision and vote "No" based on the true data.

We have received and reviewed the Mountain View Public Safety Data and noticed significant

increases after the Lifemove site was built. In 2019 & 2020 there were only single digits crimes reported. However, in 2021, there were 94 incidents, 2022 were 141 incidents and in the first 2 months of 2023, 22 incidents were reported already. The increased crime rate is the direct result of the LifeMove site. Similar trend was also identified at the Milpitas LifeMove site. As our representative, I hope you will spend some time researching the public safety data impact.

This reckless project will not only impose a danger to the neighborhood near the site (as shared to you above in the public safety data above), but will also take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger and will have a greater impact for the Santa Clara County as a whole!

We, as a community that is devoted to SAFE Santa Clara County, will be fighting really hard to keep our city/county safe to our local residents. In the last 3 weeks, we have already collected more than 5,000 petition signatures from local residents against the proposed shelter at Benton & Lawrence.

Our community has elected each of you to be our officers to represent us in public matters. The majority of the local residents have said "No" to the Benton and Lawrence Shelter (e.g. the polls in the 4th public hearings and the ratio of the yes/no from speakers in all 4 public hearings, petition signed against this proposal). Please stay on the residents' side (instead of the builders or lifemoves) and we count on you to put our citizen's life first and reject this radical experiment.

Thank you!
Fay

From:	Patrick Keegan
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	nohomekeysantaclarasunnyvale@gmail.com
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Shelter - Lawrence and Benton
Date:	Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:58:09 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to construct a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

This location is 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.

I 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 judgement on the part of the county/city.

Additionally, while this program "feels good" it does nothing to deal with the underlying cause of the chronic homelessness - drug abuse and/or mental illness. We need to invest in the root cause not just provide a better box for these people to live in. And let's not create a bigger magnet to attract these people or further enable their disease.

Finally, should there be human or economic damage due to this project, you will be putting yourself and your organizations in harm's way from a liability perspective. We won't forget.

Sincerely,

Patrick Keegan
Local Resident

From:	Jame Ann
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Simply vote NO on the homeless shelter project at Benton & Lawrence
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:21:56 PM

Hi,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence. As a resident of the Lawrence/El Camino Real area, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts that this facility could have on our community.

The proposed shelter is intended to admit people with prior criminal backgrounds, prior or ongoing drug abuse, and mental health issues, which makes locating it in a densely populated residential area such as ours simply doesn't make sense. There is indisputable, data-backed research showing that a homeless shelter, whether an “interim shelter”, “emergency shelter” or called by any other name, inevitably brings negative impacts onto the surrounding neighborhood. Crime rates will rise, and property market values (NOT assessed value thanks to Prop 13 in California) will fall.

Furthermore, the county has converted the previous Bella Vista Inn into a homeless care facility this year, which is barely half a mile away from the proposed location. It seems unfair and unthoughtful to subject communities in the Lawrence/El Camino Real area to another one again, especially when it is clear that the placement of such a facility has the potential to significantly harm our community.

I urge you to consider the potential negative impacts that this facility could have on our community and to explore other options for addressing the issue of homelessness in our city. There are other, more suitable locations for a low barrier homeless shelter that can meet the needs of homeless individuals while also preserving the safety and well-being of our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that you will take these concerns seriously and work to find a solution that prioritizes the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
James

From:	Jame Ann
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Simply vote NO on the homeless shelter project at Benton & Lawrence
Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 4:20:32 PM

Hi, I wonder if you got my mail yesterday, if I don't hear back, I will keep sending until my voice is heard.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence. As a resident of the Lawrence/El Camino Real area, I am deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts that this facility could have on our community.

The proposed shelter is intended to admit people with prior criminal backgrounds, prior or ongoing drug abuse, and mental health issues, which makes locating it in a densely populated residential area such as ours simply doesn't make sense. There is indisputable, data-backed research showing that a homeless shelter, whether an “interim shelter”, “emergency shelter” or called by any other name, inevitably brings negative impacts onto the surrounding neighborhood. Crime rates will rise, and property market values (NOT assessed value thanks to Prop 13 in California) will fall.

Furthermore, the county has converted the previous Bella Vista Inn into a homeless care facility this year, which is barely half a mile away from the proposed location. It seems unfair and unthoughtful to subject communities in the Lawrence/El Camino Real area to another one again, especially when it is clear that the placement of such a facility has the potential to significantly harm our community.

I urge you to consider the potential negative impacts that this facility could have on our community and to explore other options for addressing the issue of homelessness in our city. There are other, more suitable locations for a low barrier homeless shelter that can meet the needs of homeless individuals while also preserving the safety and well-being of our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that you will take these concerns seriously and work to find a solution that prioritizes the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
James

From:	Sharilyn Yao
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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:	Siyu Hou
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:59:52 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.

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Thank you!

Siyu
[redacted] Santa Clara, 95051

From:	Huan Hu
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Tuesday, March 21, 2023 1:25:50 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:	Puan Xu
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Monday, March 20, 2023 8:07:10 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:	(null) (null)
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Monday, March 20, 2023 6:03:09 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:	Alicia Deboe
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Monday, March 20, 2023 5:32:00 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: Ping Wu
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 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:	Sizhuo Zhang
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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:	VW H
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:12:58 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] San Jose, CA

From:	Zheyu Wu
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 7:23:04 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:	Yiming Xu
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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:	Fan Chen
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:33:44 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:	Bing Tai
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:03:46 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:	Prashanth Kalluraya
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 10:13:12 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**.

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.

Concerned Citizen

-Prashanth Kalluraya

From:	Xinrong Yang
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Saturday, March 18, 2023 8:08:15 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:	Vipul Shah
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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:	Jonathan van Clute
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Saturday, March 18, 2023 11:24:26 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:	Anna Tan
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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:	Zhenzhen (Viola) Gao
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Friday, March 17, 2023 11:13:01 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:	C L
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Friday, March 17, 2023 7:26:47 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.**

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:	Bowen Chen
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Friday, March 17, 2023 10:58:02 AM

Dear offciers,

My Name is Bowen Chen and I lives in Santa Clara.

Home address is 743 Yale Ln, Santa Clara, CA 95051

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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Best regards,

Bowen

From:	Jui Hui Lin
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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**.

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Thank you.

Regards,

Julia

From:	Xuyan Gremminger
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Friday, March 17, 2023 9:57:43 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,
-Xuyan

From:	Sergey Pogosov
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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.**

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:	Zhenzhen (Viola) Gao
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:10:42 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:	Rémy BERNARD
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 9:01:40 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:	Will C
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 8:13:42 PM

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--

Haoyu Chen

From:	Su Latt Win
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:12:41 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:	Shan-Ting Hsu
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:12:05 PM

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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:	Sandrine Bernard
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:03:07 PM

Hello,

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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:	Guilan Gao
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:59:02 PM

Hello,

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From:	Guilan Gao
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:58:50 PM

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From:	Leung Andy
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:57:28 PM

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From:	Rui de Leon
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:56:56 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:	Rui Liang
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:56:23 PM

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From:	Ray Leon
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:55:39 PM

Hello,

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From:	Rui Liang
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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

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--
Best Regards,

Rui Liang

From:	vidya g
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:00:13 PM

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From:	Imran C
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:37:11 PM
Attachments:	BentonStShelter.pdf

Hi,

I am Mohammed Imran Choudhary, resident at 3472 Angelina Dr, Santa Clara, CA, 95051.

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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Sincerely,
Mohammed Imran Choudhary

From:	Xuri Feng
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:28:37 PM

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From:	M Feng
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:27:31 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:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:25:50 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:	Hongliang Fei
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:06:37 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.**

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Lee

From:	Hongliang Fei
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:04:47 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.**

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Resident of Santa Clara,

Hongliang

From:	Junyu Zheng
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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

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Junyu Zheng
[redacted] Santa Clara

From:	Ray
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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

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From:	Jeff Leon
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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,

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Sincerely,
Jeff Li

From:	Yunqi Sun
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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.**

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From:	Gurinder Dhillon
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:31:38 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:	hardik darji
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:16:32 AM

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--
Hardikkumar Darji

From:	Sun Eva
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:11:53 AM

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.**

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Thanks,
Eva

From:	Shea Shea
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:10:17 AM

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--
Regards,
Jason Shea

From:	Amber Hung
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:09:09 AM

Hi Sir,

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--
Regards,
Jo Yu Hung

From:	Amber Hung
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:08:19 AM

Hi Sir,

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--
Regards,
Amber Hung

From:	Mengxi Li
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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.**

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-A Santa Clara resident

From:	Eric Kyungwoo Sung
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:05:56 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: [redacted]
To: Hernandez, Consuelo; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom!
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:00:11 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: Yi Huang
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:59:28 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.**

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Regards,
Yi Huang

From:	Shaun Shroff
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:54:37 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.**

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From:	Zhe Liu
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:14:05 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:	Frank WONG
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop Benton Lawrence Shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:49:32 PM

Dear Mr/Ms,

My name is Long Wang living in 3073 Adams Way, Santa Clara, CA 95051.
I'm strongly against the Lawrence-Benton Shelter. This location is the heart of South Bay, has high populations, with 4x schools and many communities nearby. I can not imagine there are hundreds of homeless of mental-illness live here and how scary our kids will be. You can not hear the voice of elementary kids but you know this shelter will hurt them. Shelter should build in industrial area, not residential area, it is so obvious but why county ignore this. We pay property taxes every year to the county. Such residential shelter may drive many high-tech employees to leave this area to other safer cities.

Stop this Benton-Lawrence Shelter and move to industrial or Mountain view area!!!!!

That's my comments to it.
Thanks!

Sincerely,
Long

From:	Dan Li
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop the Benton Shelter for Homeless
Date:	Saturday, March 11, 2023 5:25:41 PM

Hi Hernandez,

As a citizen and voter in Santa Clara County, I'm writing to express my **grave** concern on the proposed homeless shelter at the corner of Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara.

Please see the rationales attached.

Thank you!
Dan

Why Should We Oppose Benton Shelter?

Here Are The Reasons, Data and Facts

SafeSCC
Promoting Safe Neighborhoods

Wrong location

Benton location is adjacent to the 8-lane Lawrence Expressway. The environmental characteristics are not conducive to rehabilitation and stabilization of life after living on the street. The location is also far from grocery, bus stops, and hospitals that do not require insurance. Plus, it's going to be a 4-story container building, much more fragile and dangerous in case of an earthquake, flood or strong wind. The County does own a number of parcels which are larger and nicer.

Unsafe for all

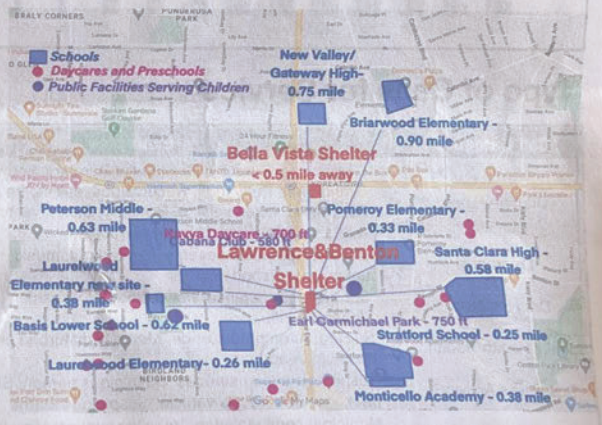
The failed screening system would allow drug addicts, sex offenders, and criminals cohabiting with innocent unhoused individuals. Statistics show that about 3.5% are repeat offenders after prior conviction - 10 times higher than the general public. As a result, many unhoused people opt not to reside in shelters because they don't feel safe living in a 10x dangerous place. It will also be a crime hotbed for the entire community.

Understaffed operation

There will only be 1 staff overlooking 124 households, and "probably" a vocational nurse to help with the mental illness people. Plus, there is currently no operation plan in place, and neither the city, county, nor LifeMoves has given any consideration to operation costs. No one will be held accountable for ensuring the safety of the unhoused people or the community as a whole. It appears that this project is nothing more than a checked box on a politician's to-do list.

Put the community at risk

The proposed location of the shelter poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools, as it is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students within 1.5 miles. Having "the more challenging elements of the population" in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable children is a reckless idea and radical experiment. More concerning is that the county and LifeMoves didn't even care to research the actual number of schools closeby. They counted only 4 schools within 1.5 miles, far from being correct. 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.



Schools and Daycare Centers within 1 mile. See Table 1 for Complete List.

County shows no integrity

The county authorities have repeatedly provided misleading statements, vague descriptions, and inaccurate information, with the apparent intention of misleading and deceiving people. It is evident that they are reluctant to disclose the truth, likely because they are aware that if the truth were revealed, it would result in widespread opposition. This opposition would come from both law-abiding housed and unhoused individuals.

Send an email to express your opposition and be included in the report of community engagement that will be shared with City Council and County Supervisors

City Contact: Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
County Contact: Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org
Mayor and Council: MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov
County Supervisors: supervisor.lee@bos.sccgov.org; supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org

City Council and County Supervisors will review community input and make a decision in April

In Our Neighborhood

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 Branham and Benton location

	Branham and Monterey shelter (San Jose)	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

Sign Petition

From: [redacted]
To: MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] STOP the homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence!!
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:34:10 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:	B W
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Stop the Horrible Shelter Proposal at Lawrence and Benton
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:05:00 PM

My name is Brian West, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the Benton shelter proposal. This is absolutely 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.

3) 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!)

4) The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood. Our neighbors have shouldered more homeless issues than any other area already. Enough is enough! Don't bring more homeless to our neighborhood.

5) 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!

6) Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse in any homeless shelter will only create more problems than it solves.
7) Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs, totally opposite to the stated goals of the proposed shelter.

8) 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 to vote NO. Thank you.

Brian West
and family

From: B W
To: MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] STOP the Proposed Homeless Shelter at Lawrence and Benton. Please vote NO!!
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:27:34 PM

My name is Brian West, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the Benton shelter proposal. This is absolutely 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.

3) 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!)

4) This is the 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood. Our neighbors have shouldered more homeless issues than any other area already. Enough is enough! Don't bring more homeless to our neighborhood.

5) 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!

6) Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse in any homeless shelter will only create more problems than it solves.
7) Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs, totally opposite to the stated goals of the proposed shelter.

8) 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 to vote NO. Thank you.

Brian West
and family

From:	y xx
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Supervisor.Lee; Ellenberg, Supervisor
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strong objection!
Date:	Tuesday, February 28, 2023 5:41:22 PM

To whom may concern,
We **strongly oppose** building the low barrier tiny home homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton.
We understand the helpless for the homeless, however, the policy should think about the residents more. Before deciding, think about some questions below:
Have you guys consider the safety of the city and the community?
Have you guys consider the use of the taxed money from the residents?
What the residents really need?
Have you guys think about the duties? Why the residents vote for you guys? For the worst environment?
Please listen to our residents' voice! And choose the locations of low barrier tiny homeless shelters cautiously! Better for far from any cities!
Regards,
Lily Xiao

From: Yuan Yao
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strong Oppose the development of Benton Homeless shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 8:40:59 PM

To whom it may concern
The proposed Benton Homeless shelter brings a significant safety threat to nearby schools, including my kids' school. I urge the city council to stop consideration of this location

Regards
Yuan Yao

From:	Larry wang
To:	mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca org; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; rchahal; Kathy Watanabe; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg_Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; Hernandez_Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strong oppose to Benton and Lawrence homeless shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:31:47 PM

Dear Mayor, city council members,
cc. county council members,

I am writing to strongly oppose the project of Benton homeless shelter.

The homeless have been an issue for us for a couple of years. We understand that Santa Clara county and city are pushed to find a location for shelters. However, I do not think the cross street of Lawrence and Benton is an good choice. The noisy place with a low transit score to the bus stop and the traffic appears dangerous to pedestrian crossing Benton street. Like white oaks, where is rejected years ago, is a bad choice for those who need support. It brings huge concerns to local communities as well.

Here is a notable research paper posted in 2019. Bad transit score place can nigatively impact access to employment and educational opportunities, healthcare and social services. In particular, it has been found to prevent individuals' upward mobility out of homelessness.

https://nitc.trec.pdx.edu/sites/default/files/Murphy%20%282019%29Transportation%20and%20Homelessness.pdf

The transit score of Benton shelter is calculated under 40 by walkscore.com.
I do believe if we do really wanna support homeless, please choose some other places closer to the transportatio.
I do wish you can listen and accept my point.

thank you so much.

regards,
-Larry
[redacted]

From:	Puan Xu
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Cc:	kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] strong opposition against shelters at Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Monday, February 27, 2023 8:47:22 AM

My name is Richard Xu, a resident of Santa Clara County.

I **strongly oppose** building the low-barrier container-style homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton. Here are a few points of concern. I'd appreciate it if you take them seriously and respond with a detailed answer to address them.

Major concerns:

- Too close to 24 schools and daycares. Serious safety concern.
- No serious and prior research on the impact of this shelter on the surrounding neighborhood.
- 80-100 rooms are too many for this tiny land.
- Admission of people with a criminal history and drug issues, essentially no screening procedures.
- Admission of people with mental issues.
- Stacked-up, container-style tiny homes create a subpar living environment even for the unhoused.
- No specific plans for management; no guarantee for neighborhood safety and quality of life.
- Proposed staff/residents ratio of 1:100, and a plan that would utilize only volunteers to treat the mental illness of residents
- This location is only 0.5 miles from another shelter, Bella Vista.

- There is no solid data or evidence showing that LifeMoves's Moutain View homeless shelter succeeded in reducing the homeless population in the city or improving the homeless's mental issues.

- Homeless families with kids and/or some belongings will very likely avoid moving into this shelter due to fear of crimes and drug use. Since the shelter will design to have a "low entry barrier" (essentially no screening of residents at all), it is quite likely that people with a criminal background, history of drug use/dealing, and repeat offenses will stay here. It will not be surprising that homeless from other states with questionable backgrounds will show up in our neighborhoods.

- From White Oak Lane to Benton & Lawrence, these choices of location have repeatedly shown that some of the elected officials put spending up taxpayer's dollars before ensuring the safety of the community.

Requests:

- I request that you address the 300+ questions raised by the attendees in the first community meeting held on Feb-13, 2023 instead of cherry-picking a few to answer and ignoring the majority.

- I request that you provide the date, time, and location of the April meetings to be attended by LifeMoves, and city and county staff to discuss community feedback. and I request that info be shared online & publicly accessible, so members of the community have a chance to join the discussion.

- I request that the County always provide a virtual way (e.g. Zoom) to join the meetings that are held in person so that busy parents like me can participate.

- I request that you provide verifiable research/study/data on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood.

- I request that you share the plans about how you are making sure that young kids and students are safely walking to/from schools.

- I request that you share the plans about how to handle the potential increase in parking and traffic gave that 80-120 units will be introduced to an already overcrowded neighborhood.

- I request that you share how you would help the city of Santa Clara cope with the inevitable requirement to increase police funding/staffing in response to the increase in incidents/crimes in this area due to this shelter.

- Are there any rules/regulations applicable to residents of the shelter? If they break the regulation, what accountability will be enforced?

- What does the move-in process look like? Is there a maximum of time a resident can stay in this shelter? What is their day-to-day schedule (e.g. curfew)?

- Is the shelter designed to accommodate unhoused people from the city of Santa Clara only, or from the county, or from anywhere in the country? How do you enforce geographical restrictions, if any?

- Please share the details of resident management, including Lifemoves' plan, and source of first-year and long-term funding.

Thank you for your consideration

From: Nanxi Li
To: Nanxi Li
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strong opposition to Benton & Lawrence Low-Barrier Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 8:19:22 PM

Hi,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Benton & Lawrence Low-Barrier Shelter that is proposed to be established in our neighborhood. As a concerned resident, I believe that this shelter would be a wrong location for several reasons and poses significant risks to our community.

Firstly, the location of the proposed shelter is currently being used for a pumpkin patch and Christmas tree lot, which attracts many families and children during the holiday season. The establishment of a low-barrier shelter would change the character of this area, and the presence of individuals with mental illnesses or addiction issues could create an unsafe environment for families and children.

Secondly, the proposed location is too close to the expressway, which poses significant risks to individuals with mental illnesses who may wander and walk around the area. It is essential to consider the safety of these individuals and ensure that they are not at risk of harm from the nearby traffic.

Furthermore, the proposed shelter is located in close proximity to several schools. I am deeply concerned about the safety of children, as well as the potential impact that the shelter could have on the community as a whole. The presence of a low-barrier shelter could attract individuals with criminal records or addiction issues, leading to an increase in crime and other undesirable activities in the area.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to reconsider the establishment of the Benton & Lawrence Low-Barrier Shelter in our neighborhood. While I understand the importance of providing support for those in need, it is essential to consider the impact that this shelter could have on the safety and well-being of our community. I believe that there are other, more suitable locations that could provide a safe and supportive environment for those in need.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Nanxi Li, resident in Santa Clara

From:	zhe yin
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Cc:	kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclara.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposal of building homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Friday, February 24, 2023 12:22:24 PM

Hello,

My name is Zhe Yin, a resident of Santa Clara County.

I **strongly oppose** building the low barrier container style homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton. Here are my reasons and requests. Please seriously consider my reasons, and reply back with detailed answers to all my requests.

Reasons:

- Too close to 24 schools and daycares. Serious safety concern.
- No prior research has been done on the impact of this shelter to the neighborhood.
- 80-100 rooms are too many for this tiny land.
- The shelter has no screening procedures and accepts people with criminal history, drug issues and mental issues to live in which brings safety concerns to the neighbourhood.
- Oppose tiny removable homes, instead of concrete buildings.
- No plans for management, no guarantee for neighborhood safety and quality of life.
- With a 1:100 staff/homeless ratio and only volunteers onsite, there are not enough professionals to treat mental illness.
- This shelter is only 0.5 miles from another shelter, Bella Vista.
- No research and evidence can show LifeMoves's MTV shelter succeeds in reducing the homeless population, and improving the homeless's mental issues.

- Kids love the pumpkin patch here. It brings good memories to them over the years. DO NOT turn the good memories into nightmares!

Requests:

- I request you provide the date, time and location of the April meetings among LifeMoves, city and county staff to discuss community feedback and share the information to the public.

- I request that the County also set up a zoom meeting for the in person meetings, so that people who need to take care of kids at home can also participate.

- I request you provide research/study on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood.

- I request you provide a solid plan for the steps to ensure the neighborhoods are safe and secure, especially how to make sure young kids and students are safe walking to schools.

- What's the weapon policy? How can you make sure they do not have weapons with them?

- Will the city increase its police force?

- Who will be sent to this shelter? Will it only for Santa Clara City's homeless, or homeless from anywhere can come and live here?

- How will the maximum 240 homeless people be managed? By whom? Where does the funding come from?

Regards,
Zhe

From:	Wenyu Cai
To:	mayorandcouncil@santaclara.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly appose building the low barrier homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Monday, February 27, 2023 10:41:15 PM

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are very shocked to know that there is a discussion or plan to build the low barrier homeless shelter on
Lawrence & Benton. It is so hard to believe that in an area surrounded by 24 schools and day cares, people would think
to build buildings and give the opportunities for those with criminal history and drug issues wandering around. That is such
an irresponsible plan and can potentially hurt our community hard. Safety is already a big concern for many people in
nowadays and it is terrible to try to do things like that to make it even worse. If you have kids going to school surrounded by
this, would you be comfortable and rest assured for this whole thing?

As a Santa Clara citizen, we strongly appose building the low barrier home homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton!!! Please
help to stop this. Thanks very much for your time and help!

Thanks & Regards,
Vera

From: yun zou
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly concern about the lack of transparency in the homeless shelter project @Benton&Lawrence
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:12:27 PM

Hi,
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence. While I understand that the issue of homelessness is a complex and pressing one, I am deeply concerned about the lack of transparency and community involvement in the decision-making process.

It has come to my attention that many residents in the surrounding neighborhoods were not notified or consulted about the proposal to establish a low barrier homeless shelter in the area. This lack of community involvement is deeply concerning to me, as it suggests that the decision was made without proper consideration for the needs and concerns of the community.

It has come to my attention that many residents in the surrounding neighborhoods were not notified or consulted about the proposal to establish a low barrier homeless shelter in the area. This lack of community involvement is deeply concerning to me, as it suggests that the decision was made without proper consideration for the needs and concerns of the community.

The fact that most of the neighborhood was not notified of this proposal is suspicious and raises questions about the transparency and accountability of the decision-making process. As residents, we have a right to be informed about proposals that will impact our community, and we deserve to have a say in decisions that will affect our safety and well-being.

I urge you to reconsider the proposal to establish a low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence and to engage in a more transparent and inclusive decision-making process. This could include holding public meetings, soliciting feedback from community members, and ensuring that all relevant information is made available to the public.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that you will take these concerns seriously and work to ensure that the decision-making process around this proposal is fair, transparent, and inclusive of the needs and concerns of the community.

Sincerely,
Reed

From: yun zou
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly concern about the lack of transparency in the homeless shelter project @Benton&Lawrence
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 4:21:40 PM

Hi, do you still hear voices from us through this email? I haven't got any response yet, so will keep sending the emails.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence. While I understand that the issue of homelessness is a complex and pressing one, I am deeply concerned about the lack of transparency and community involvement in the decision-making process.

It has come to my attention that many residents in the surrounding neighborhoods were not notified or consulted about the proposal to establish a low barrier homeless shelter in the area. This lack of community involvement is deeply concerning to me, as it suggests that the decision was made without proper consideration for the needs and concerns of the community.

It has come to my attention that many residents in the surrounding neighborhoods were not notified or consulted about the proposal to establish a low barrier homeless shelter in the area. This lack of community involvement is deeply concerning to me, as it suggests that the decision was made without proper consideration for the needs and concerns of the community.

The fact that most of the neighborhood was not notified of this proposal is suspicious and raises questions about the transparency and accountability of the decision-making process. As residents, we have a right to be informed about proposals that will impact our community, and we deserve to have a say in decisions that will affect our safety and well-being.

I urge you to reconsider the proposal to establish a low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence and to engage in a more transparent and inclusive decision-making process. This could include holding public meetings, soliciting feedback from community members, and ensuring that all relevant information is made available to the public.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that you will take these concerns seriously and work to ensure that the decision-making process around this proposal is fair, transparent, and inclusive of the needs and concerns of the community.

Sincerely,
Reed

From:	Sophy Zhu
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:40:30 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:	Rui Liang
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] 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:	Jing
To:	abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; Lisa Gillmor; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; rchahal; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Chavez, Cindy; drush@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; MeltonCouncil; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; Supervisor Simitian
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly Oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:00:27 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:	Co Liu
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	abecker@santaclaraca.gov; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Supervisor.Lee
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose Benton Shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 3:46:40 PM

Hi,

I'm strongly oppose the Benton St shelter project!

Regards

From: Wenyu Cai
To: amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] strongly oppose building interim housing on Benton!!
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:15:16 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:	Hong, Lu
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] strongly oppose building the homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Friday, February 24, 2023 9:24:27 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a Santa Clara resident & 3-kids mother living in Lawrence and Benton area, I **strongly oppose** building the low barrier homeless shelter on Lawrence and Benton. Below are my reasons and requests. Please seriously consider my reasons, and reply back with detailed answers to all the requests.

Reasons:

- This place is too close to 24 schools and daycares that raises **serious safety concerns**.
- We oppose any actions without considering the impact of this shelter to the safety of the neighborhood.
- We oppose a shelter accepting people with criminal history and drug issues, especially accepting those people without formal screening procedures.
- We oppose anyone with mental issues living in this shelter with so many kids living in this area.
- We oppose tiny removable homes in such a small place. 80-100 rooms are too crowded there.
- We oppose any action that doesn't have any guarantee for the neighborhood's quality of life.
- We oppose this shelter with a 1:100 staff/homeless ratio, and only volunteers onsite to treat mental illness.
- Also, this shelter is only 0.5 miles from the other shelter, Bella Vista. This action doesn't consider the neighborhood at all.
- No research and evidence can show LifeMoves's MTV shelter has succeeded in reducing the homeless population, and improving the homeless's mental issues.

Requests:

- I request you provide 300+ questions the attendees entered in chats during the first hearing meeting, and your answers.
- I request you provide the date, time and location of the April meetings among LifeMoves, city and county staff to discuss community feedback. and I request that info be shared to the public. and we all get notifications of the meetings.
- I request that the County also set up a zoom meeting for the in-person meetings, so that people like me who need to take care of kids at home, can also participate.
- I request you provide research/study on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood.
- I request you provide a solid plan for the steps to ensure the neighborhoods are safe and secure. and a detailed plan for funding and leading the effort?
- I request plans on how you are making sure young kids and students are safe walking to schools.
- I request a plan on how to solve the potential problems on parking and traffic given that 80-120 units will be introduced to an already overcrowded neighborhood.
- I request you to plan to address the increased police funding and numbers needs, given the tremendous increase in population.How will community's safety be endured? What's your plan and city's plan?

- How can you ensure homeless people can be well-behaved? Are there any regulations for the occupants in the shelter? If they break the regulation, what's the penalty?
- What's the weapon policy? How can you make sure they do not have weapons with them?
- Will the city increase its police force?
- What's their move-in process look like? How many days can they stay? Will they be allowed to get out of the shelter?
- Who will be sent to this shelter? Will it only for Santa Clara City's homeless, or homeless from anywhere can come and live here?
- How will the maximum 240 homeless people be managed? By whom? Where does the funding come from?

Sincerely yours,

Amber

From:	Shuhong Chen
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] strongly oppose building the homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Friday, February 24, 2023 9:59:19 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a Santa Clara resident & 3-kids dad living in Lawrence and Benton area, I **strongly oppose** building the low barrier homeless shelter on Lawrence and Benton. Below are my reasons and requests. Please seriously consider my reasons, and reply back with detailed answers to all the requests.

Reasons:

- This place is too close to 24 schools and daycares that raises **serious safety concerns**.
- We oppose any actions without considering the impact of this shelter to the safety of the neighborhood.
- We oppose a shelter accepting people with criminal history and drug issues, especially accepting those people without formal screening procedures.
- We oppose anyone with mental issues living in this shelter with so many kids living in this area.
- We oppose tiny removable homes in such a small place. 80-100 rooms are too crowded there.
- We oppose any action that doesn't have any guarantee for the neighborhood's quality of life.
- We oppose this shelter with a 1:100 staff/homeless ratio, and only volunteers onsite to treat mental illness.
- Also, this shelter is only 0.5 miles from the other shelter, Bella Vista. This action doesn't consider the neighborhood at all.
- No research and evidence can show LifeMoves's MTV shelter has succeeded in reducing the homeless population, and improving the homeless's mental issues.

Requests:

- I request you provide 300+ questions the attendees entered in chats during the first hearing meeting, and your answers.
- I request you provide the date, time and location of the April meetings among LifeMoves, city and county staff to discuss community feedback. and I request that info be shared to the public. and we all get notifications of the meetings.
- I request that the County also set up a zoom meeting for the in-person meetings, so that people like me who need to take care of kids at home, can also participate.
- I request you provide research/study on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood.
- I request you provide a solid plan for the steps to ensure the neighborhoods are safe and secure. and a detailed plan for funding and leading the effort?
- I request plans on how you are making sure young kids and students are safe walking to schools.
- I request a plan on how to solve the potential problems on parking and traffic given that 80-120 units will be introduced to an already overcrowded neighborhood.
- I request you to plan to address the increased police funding and numbers needs, given the tremendous increase in population.How will community's safety be endured? What's your plan and city's plan?

- How can you ensure homeless people can be well-behaved? Are there any regulations for the occupants in the shelter? If they break the regulation, what's the penalty?
- What’s the weapon policy? How can you make sure they do not have weapons with them?
- Will the city increase its police force?
- What's their move-in process look like? How many days can they stay? Will they be allowed to get out of the shelter?
- Who will be sent to this shelter? Will it only for Santa Clara City's homeless, or homeless from anywhere can come and live here?
- How will the maximum 240 homeless people be managed? By whom? Where does the funding come from?

Sincerely yours,

Shuhong

From: Faye W
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly Oppose Homeless Shelter on Lawrence & Benton
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:57:38 PM

Hi Consuelo,

That's Faye, a resident of Santa Clara county. I am writing to you below to represent the family and community to **strongly oppose** building the low barrier tiny home homeless shelter on Lawrence & Benton. Here are my reasons and requests. Please seriously consider my reasons, and reply back with detailed answers to all my requests.
Reasons:

- Too close to 24 schools and daycares. Serious safety concern.
- We oppose no prior research having been done on the impact of this shelter to the neighborhood.
- 80-100 rooms are too many for this tiny land.
- We oppose a shelter accepting people with criminal history and drug issues. We oppose no screening procedures.
- We oppose people with mental issues living in this shelter.
- We oppose tiny removable homes, instead of concrete buildings.
- No plans for management, no guarantee for neighborhood safety and quality of life.
- We oppose this shelter with a 1:100 staff/homeless ratio, and only volunteers onsite to treat mental illness.
- This shelter is only 0.5 miles from another shelter, Bella Vista.
- No research and evidence can show LifeMoves's MTV shelter succeeds in reducing the homeless population, and improving the homeless's mental issues.

Requests:

- I request you provide 300+ questions the attendees entered in chats during the first hearing meeting, and your answers.
- I request you provide the date, time and location of the April meetings among LifeMoves, city and county staff to discuss community feedback. and I request that info be shared to the public. and we all get notifications of the meetings.
- I request that the County also set up a zoom meeting for the in person meetings, so that people like me who need to take care of kids at home, can also participate.
- I request you provide research/study on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood.
- I request you provide a solid plan for the steps to ensure the neighborhoods are safe and secure. and a detailed plan for funding and leading the effort?
- I request plans on how you are making sure young kids and students are safe walking to schools.
- I request a plan on how to solve the potential problems on parking and traffic given that 80-120 units will be introduced to an already overcrowded neighborhood.
- I request you to plan to address the increased police funding and numbers

needs, given the tremendous increase in population.How will community's safety be endured? What's your plan and city's plan?

- How can you ensure homeless people can be well-behaved? Are there any regulations for the occupants in the shelter? If they break the regulation, what's the penalty?
- What’s the weapon policy? How can you make sure they do not have weapons with them?
- Will the city increase its police force?
- What's their move-in process look like? How many days can they stay? Will they be allowed to get out of the shelter?
- Who will be sent to this shelter? Will it only for Santa Clara City's homeless, or homeless from anywhere can come and live here?
- How will the maximum 240 homeless people be managed? By whom? Where does the funding come from?

Thank you for your consideration and your time in reading the community's concerns! Please seriously consider my reasons, and reply back with detailed answers to all my requests.

Regards,

Faye Wang

From: Wei Wang
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose homeless shelters building on Lawrence
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:11:03 PM

Strongly oppose this proposal!!

From:	Joyce Huang
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] strongly oppose Lawrence-Benton Shelter
Date:	Thursday, April 6, 2023 3:05:40 PM

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

My name is Joyce Huang, a resident of Santa Clara. I and every member in my family strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as low-barrier shelter as soon as possible, and vote in opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the low-barrier interim housing.

Reason 1: Gathering criminals, drug addicts, and mental-disordered without professional treatment together in one building will dramatically increase violence and danger to the neighborhood.

It is confirmed in the past three meetings that people who will live in Benton interim housing will largely be drug addicts, criminals, sex offenders and mentally disordered. Those people need to be treated in professional facilities, NOT in an interim housing with only a few staff and a vocational nurse. Tons of data worldwide have confirmed the positive relation between drug addicts/mental illness without professional treatment and violence. Putting those dangerous people in a neighborhood full of young children, family and seniors is risky and reckless, and will definitely lead to devastating consequences. It only needs one tragedy to ruin a family, the entire neighborhood, and all voters' trust towards all the decision makers who fail to vote no to the Benton project.

Reason 2: Data confirmed crime rate trippled for a similar site in Milpitas. Neighborhood's concern on safety is real

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 site is still isolated from the neighborhood. The closest house is ½ miles away. For Benton, the closest house is less than 20 ft away. 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.

Reason 3: No plan on operation fund and cost even after three community hearings. County and city just want to rush to approve to secure the last round of HomeKey funding. Consuelo said the site will be partially funded by Homekey fund for the first 2-3 years. It means even for the initial stage, city or county have to fund it but there is no discussion at all on how much and if they have sufficient money. Also the site will be here for at least 15

years. What would happen for the remaining 13 years? It is very likely the Benton site in 2-3 years will become an abandoned building full of criminals, drug addicts and mentally disordered homeless. City or county have no plan at all. All of those plannings need to happen before voting on the project, and actually should have happened before public hearing. So I urge the city to pause voting on this until the funding and operational plan become sound and solid.

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 low barrier interim housing at Benton.

Thanks a lot. Have a great day!

Best regards,

Joyce Huang

From:	Maggie Ren
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose low-barrier shelter at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway!!!
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:20:20 PM

Mayor Gilmore, Santa Clara Councilmembers:

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 almost 10 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 non-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,
Maggie

From: Shuai L
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Cc: abecker@santaclaraca.gov; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose the Benton st shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 3:50:52 PM

Mayor Gilmore, Santa Clara Councilmembers:

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 almost 10 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.

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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 non-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: Julie Z
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose the low barrier homeless shelter at Benton&Lawrence (0 mi)
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 4:16:45 PM

Hi, I sent you a letter yesterday, but haven't heard back from you, so I want to make sure my voice is heard, and is part of the public record. Thanks.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence. While I understand that the issue of homelessness is a complex and pressing one, I believe that this location is simply not suitable for such a facility.

First and foremost, I am deeply concerned about the impact that a low barrier homeless shelter would have on the safety and well-being of the surrounding community. The area around Benton and Lawrence is already home to many families, small businesses, and schools, and introducing a large population of homeless individuals with complex needs could lead to increased crime, drug use, and other negative outcomes. I am particularly worried about the impact that this shelter could have on the safety of children who attend schools in the area.

Additionally, I am worried about the impact that this shelter could have on property values and the local economy. Many businesses and homeowners in the area have invested a great deal of time and money in building up their properties, and I believe that the presence of a low barrier homeless shelter could have a negative impact on property values and deter new businesses from investing in the area.

Finally, I believe that there are other, more suitable locations for a low barrier homeless shelter in our city. I urge you to explore other options and work with community members to identify a location that can meet the needs of homeless individuals while also preserving the safety and well-being of the surrounding community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that you will take these concerns seriously and work to find a solution that works for everyone.

Sincerely,
Julie

From:	Aha Mihn
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose the low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:16:50 PM

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence. As a parent and concerned community member, I am deeply worried about the potential impact that this facility could have on the safety of the children who attend schools in the area.

There are 10 schools within 1 mile of the proposed location, and introducing a large population of homeless individuals with complex needs could lead to increased crime, drug use, and other negative outcomes. This is particularly concerning given that many of these schools serve young children who are especially vulnerable to the dangers that can arise from an increase in criminal activity and drug use.

As a parent, I believe that the safety and well-being of our children should be the top priority in any decision that affects our community. I urge you to consider the potential impact that this facility could have on the safety of our children and to explore other options for addressing the issue of homelessness in our city.

There are other, more suitable locations for a low barrier homeless shelter in our city, and I urge you to work with community members to identify a location that can meet the needs of homeless individuals while also preserving the safety and well-being of our children and the surrounding community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that you will take these concerns seriously and work to find a solution that prioritizes the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
Mihn

From: Julie Z
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose the low barrier homeless shelter at Benton&Lawrence
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:08:21 PM

Hi,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence. While I understand that the issue of homelessness is a complex and pressing one, I believe that this location is simply not suitable for such a facility.

First and foremost, I am deeply concerned about the impact that a low barrier homeless shelter would have on the safety and well-being of the surrounding community. The area around Benton and Lawrence is already home to many families, small businesses, and schools, and introducing a large population of homeless individuals with complex needs could lead to increased crime, drug use, and other negative outcomes. I am particularly worried about the impact that this shelter could have on the safety of children who attend schools in the area.

Additionally, I am worried about the impact that this shelter could have on property values and the local economy. Many businesses and homeowners in the area have invested a great deal of time and money in building up their properties, and I believe that the presence of a low barrier homeless shelter could have a negative impact on property values and deter new businesses from investing in the area.

Finally, I believe that there are other, more suitable locations for a low barrier homeless shelter in our city. I urge you to explore other options and work with community members to identify a location that can meet the needs of homeless individuals while also preserving the safety and well-being of the surrounding community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that you will take these concerns seriously and work to find a solution that works for everyone.

Sincerely,
Julie

From: Aha Mihn
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose the low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 4:18:04 PM

Did you hear the people sing? I just want to make sure my voice is heard and part of the public record. Thanks.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence. As a parent and concerned community member, I am deeply worried about the potential impact that this facility could have on the safety of the children who attend schools in the area.

There are 10 schools within 1 mile of the proposed location, and introducing a large population of homeless individuals with complex needs could lead to increased crime, drug use, and other negative outcomes. This is particularly concerning given that many of these schools serve young children who are especially vulnerable to the dangers that can arise from an increase in criminal activity and drug use.

As a parent, I believe that the safety and well-being of our children should be the top priority in any decision that affects our community. I urge you to consider the potential impact that this facility could have on the safety of our children and to explore other options for addressing the issue of homelessness in our city.

There are other, more suitable locations for a low barrier homeless shelter in our city, and I urge you to work with community members to identify a location that can meet the needs of homeless individuals while also preserving the safety and well-being of our children and the surrounding community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that you will take these concerns seriously and work to find a solution that prioritizes the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
Mihn

From: Natalia Bondarenko
To: Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] STRONGLY OPPOSE the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:57:39 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: C L
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly Oppose the Proposed Temporary Housing Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2023 10:16:49 PM

To Representatives of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed low barrier tiny home homeless shelter at the corner of Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara. As a new mom living near this location, I am deeply concerned about the safety of my child and our family. While I understand the importance of addressing homelessness in our community, I believe that this location is highly unsuitable for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the proposed shelter is too close to 24 schools and daycares, posing a serious safety concern for children and parents in the area. Prior surveys conducted by the City of Santa Clara show that 50% of the homeless have addiction problems. 25% have been in jail in 2020- 2021. The presence of a large number of homeless people with drug and criminal histories would create a significant risk to the safety of the community and especially to our children. I am requesting that you provide detailed plans on how you will ensure the safety of young kids and students who walk to schools in the area.

We oppose a shelter that accepts people with criminal history and drug issues, and the no screening procedures. We believe that it is imperative that strict screening procedures be put in place to ensure that the shelter is safe for the community. Additionally, we oppose people with mental issues living in this shelter. It is not appropriate to house people with mental health issues in such a densely populated area with children and families.

Furthermore, we oppose this shelter with a 1:100 staff/homeless ratio, and only volunteers onsite to treat mental illness. This is not an adequate staff-to-resident ratio to properly manage the shelter, and the reliance on volunteers to provide mental health services is inadequate and insufficient.

This shelter is only 0.5 miles from another shelter, Bella Vista. Placing another shelter so close to an existing one would only serve to compound the negative impacts on the surrounding community.

In addition, I would like to know how the county plans to ensure that the occupants of the shelter can behave appropriately and safely. What regulations will be put in place for the occupants of the shelter, and what penalties will be enforced if these regulations are not followed?

As a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to prioritize the safety and well-being of our residents, especially children and families. I urge you to consider the concerns of the community and to work towards finding an alternative location for the shelter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Cong Liu

From:	Grace Yu
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose the shelter at Benton & Lawrenece expy
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:07:38 PM

Hi,

I strongly oppose the shelter!!

Grace

From:	Xinda Hu
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose to homeless shelter Lawrence Expy@Benton St, Santa Clara
Date:	Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:16:56 PM

Hi, Ms. Hernandez,
As residents of Santa Clara county, Sunnyvale birdland community, we STRONGLY OPPOSE building the homeless shelter with no barrier at Lawrence Expressway and Benton Street, Santa Clara next to Sunnyvale, middle of many schools, playground, and densely populated areas.

We have STRONG CONCERNS to the safety of children attending nearby schools, not only many of them walk/bike by the said location, but also the overall safety of schools/playgrounds nearby.

We have STRONG CONCERNS to the Safety, Security and quality of life of all residents in proximity, the shelter would negatively impact on the community, increase in crime, vandalism, drug use.

We ask you to reconsider such a solution to homelessness which has a very negative impact to the community, relocate shelters of such to less-populated industrial zones for example.

Thanks

Xinda Hu, Run Huang
[redacted]

From:	Beyoung D
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; cityofsantaclara@homebaseccc.org; amerriman@lifemoves.org; bgreenberg@lifemoves.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence.
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 7:27:38 PM

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence. As a member of this community, I am deeply concerned about the negative impact that such a facility could have on our neighborhood.

It has come to my attention that there is already another homeless shelter within 0.5 miles of the proposed location that was established last year. This raises the question: why is there a need for another shelter in such close proximity? It seems that the burden of addressing homelessness is being disproportionately placed on our community, and this is simply unfair and unsustainable.

Furthermore, the proposed location is currently used as a pumpkin patch during the holidays, which is a beloved tradition for families in our community. I believe that it would be more acceptable to turn the location into affordable housing for people who work nearby and need homes. However, I strongly oppose the idea of a low barrier homeless shelter accepting individuals with criminal backgrounds and mental health issues. This would not only be detrimental to our community but would also make it difficult to attract decent homeless or diligent work people who are trying to improve their lives.

I urge you to consider the impact that this facility could have on our community and to explore other options for addressing the issue of homelessness in our city. There are other, more suitable locations for a low barrier homeless shelter that can meet the needs of homeless individuals while also preserving the safety and well-being of our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that you will take these concerns seriously and work to find a solution that prioritizes the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
Bill

From:	Beyoung D
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence.
Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 4:19:21 PM

Hi, I didn't hear back, so I want to check if my voice is heard.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed low barrier homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence. As a member of this community, I am deeply concerned about the negative impact that such a facility could have on our neighborhood.

It has come to my attention that there is already another homeless shelter within 0.5 miles of the proposed location that was established last year. This raises the question: why is there a need for another shelter in such close proximity? It seems that the burden of addressing homelessness is being disproportionately placed on our community, and this is simply unfair and unsustainable.

Furthermore, the proposed location is currently used as a pumpkin patch during the holidays, which is a beloved tradition for families in our community. I believe that it would be more acceptable to turn the location into affordable housing for people who work nearby and need homes. However, I strongly oppose the idea of a low barrier homeless shelter accepting individuals with criminal backgrounds and mental health issues. This would not only be detrimental to our community but would also make it difficult to attract decent homeless or diligent work people who are trying to improve their lives.

I urge you to consider the impact that this facility could have on our community and to explore other options for addressing the issue of homelessness in our city. There are other, more suitable locations for a low barrier homeless shelter that can meet the needs of homeless individuals while also preserving the safety and well-being of our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I hope that you will take these concerns seriously and work to find a solution that prioritizes the safety and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
Bill

From: Zheng Zhao
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose to the shelter at Benton
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 3:26:13 PM

Hello,

I feel deeply disappointed and outraged after attending the first public hearing on March 1st. The proposed location poses a significant threat to local students and residents. However the county officials and city councils chose to ignore and kept lying to us with biased data. Ms. Consuelo Hernandez claimed there were only 4 schools within 1.5 miles of the shelter. But there are definitely more than 10 schools. How can you lie to us in public, in front of so many local residents? I'm deeply hurt.

I urge city councils and county officials to vote no for this project.

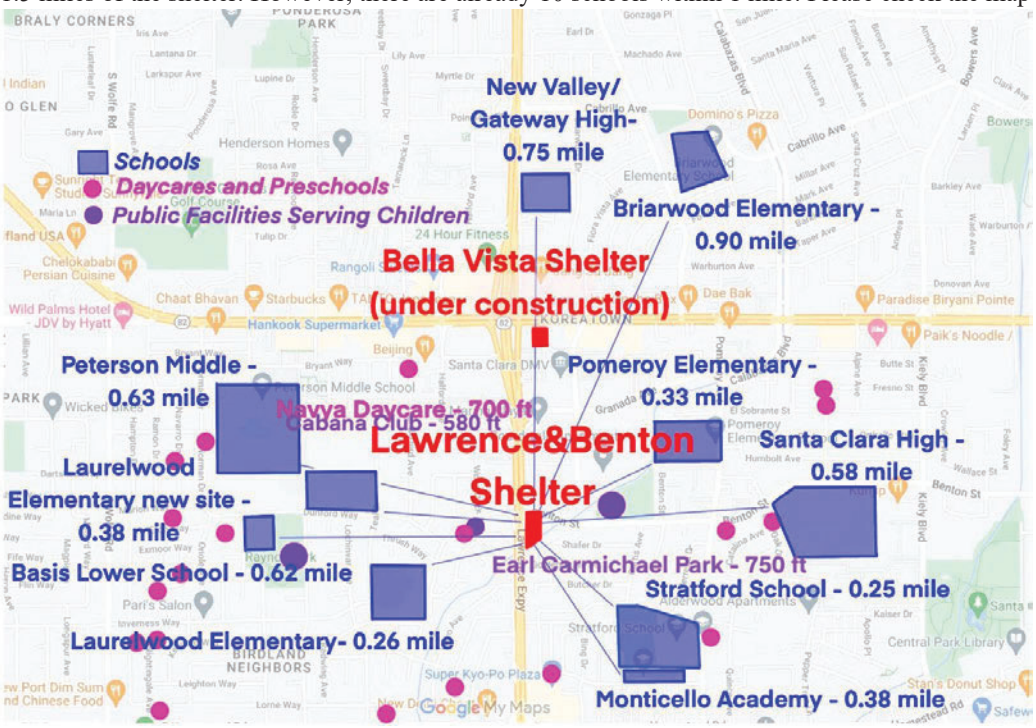
Regards and thanks,
Zheng

From:	Dong Liang
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose to the shelter at Benton. There could be better choice for the location.
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:22:36 PM

Dear City council,

I live within 1.5 miles of the proposed Benton low barrier shelter. Proposing such a shelter in high density neighborhoods and in the middle of 24 schools is very irresponsible and ignorant of local kids safety.

I feel very disappointed after attending the first public hearing on March 1st. The proposed location poses a significant threat to local students and residents. However the county officials and city councils chose to ignore the fact. We hope it is not intentional. Ms. Consuelo Hernandez falsely claimed that there were only 4 schools within 1.5 miles of the shelter. However, there are already 10 schools within 1 mile. Please check the map below.



I urge city councils and county officials to PLEASE vote NO for this project!
Please propose a different location with less safety impact to the neighborhood with so many kids.

Sincerely,
Dong Liang

From:	Connie (Qian) Zhang
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose to the shelter at Benton
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:51:29 PM

Hi City council,

I live within 1.5 miles of proposed Benton low barrier shelter. Proposing such a shelter in high density neighborhoods and in the middle of 24 schools is very irresponsible and ignorant of local kids safety!!

I feel deeply disappointed and outraged after attending the first public hearing on March 1st. The proposed location poses a significant threat to local students and residents. However the county officials and city councils chose to ignore and kept lying to us with biased data. Ms. Consuelo Hernandez claimed there were only 4 schools within 1.5 miles of the shelter. But there are definitely more than 10 schools. How can you lie to us in public, in front of so many local residents? I'm deeply hurt.

I urge city councils and county officials to PLEASe vote no for this project! Please propose a different location with less safety impact to neighborhood with so many kids!!!

Regards,
Connie

From: JING LIU
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose to the shelter at Benton
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:48:34 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

Jing Liu

Sent from my iPhone

From: Zoe Zhang
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose to the shelter at Benton
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:33:39 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 have serious concern about the shelter location!
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

Zoe

From: Jenny Yu
To: Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose to the shelter at Benton and Lawrence
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 8:56:18 PM

Hi there,

I'm very disappointed and outraged after attending the public hearing on March 1st. The county officials and city councils didn't show they care about the safety of local residents and kept lying with biased data. There are definitely more than 4 schools within 1.5 miles of the proposed shelter. Please do your research and stop lying to us.

I urge city councils and county officials to vote no for this project.

Thanks,
Jenny

From:	Bo Zhou
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose to the shelter at Benton
Date:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 3:27:32 PM

Hi all,

I feel deeply disappointed and outraged after attending the first public hearing on March 1st. The proposed location poses a significant threat to local students and residents. However the county officials and city councils chose to ignore and kept lying to us with biased data. Ms. Consuelo Hernandez claimed there were only 4 schools within 1.5 miles of the shelter. But there are definitely more than 10 schools. How can you lie to us in public, in front of so many local residents? I'm deeply hurt.

I urge city councils and county officials to vote no for this project.

Thanks,
Bo

From: [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strongly oppose
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 8:33:27 PM

I strongly oppose the low-barrier interim housing in my neighborhood at Lawrence and Benton in Santa Clara!!!

Jing Zhao

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Zihao Gu
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Strongly Opposite for Homeless Shelter in Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Thursday, March 2, 2023 3:56:12 PM

Dear County Supervisor,

I am writing to urgently express my opposition to the proposed homeless shelter in our community. There are several reasons why I believe this shelter would have a negative impact on our neighborhood and the safety of our children.

Firstly, there are more than 20 preschools, daycares, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools within close proximity to the proposed shelter. It is only 700ft from Davya Daycare and 1400ft from Monticello Academy. The community has not been informed of any prior research on the impact of this shelter on our children's safety. We demand a plan to ensure that toddlers and students can walk to school safely. We need to know what the weapons policy is and how we can be sure that shelter occupants are not armed. Will the city increase its police presence to maintain safety in the neighborhood?

Secondly, we are concerned about the shelter housing all people with criminal histories and drug problems. We strongly object to there being no screening process in place. We do not want people with mental health problems living in this shelter. We need to know how the homeless people will be monitored and disciplined for any inappropriate behavior. Are there any rules for the occupants of shelters? What are the penalties if they violate the rules?

Thirdly, there is no research or evidence that Life Moves' MTV shelter has succeeded in reducing the homeless population or improving the mental health of the homeless. According to 2021 data, there are 769 displaced people in Santa Clara, 57% of whom have serious mental problems and 90% who are involved in drugs. We urge you to provide research on how temporary or emergency shelters affect the community before approving this shelter in our neighborhood.

Lastly, we would like to know how our voice can be involved. The County and City jointly held their first online hearing on Feb. 14, but the whole hearing was not transparent. The chat function was closed, and participants could not see the number of attendees or questions from others. However, the objections made by citizens were clear and unambiguous. I request that you provide the 300+ questions that attendees entered in the chat at the first hearing, along with your answers.

I request that a date, time, and place be provided for the April meetings where Life Moves, City and County staff will discuss community feedback. We also request that information be shared with the public and that we are all notified of the meeting.

In conclusion, while I understand the urgency and importance of addressing the issue of homelessness, I do not believe that establishing a homeless shelter in this area is the best way. I urge you to consider the impact of this shelter on our community and the safety of our children. We request that you take our concerns into account and conduct thorough research before approving this shelter. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

One resident in Santa Clara,
Zihao Gu

From:	Vidushi Gupta
To:	Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Cc:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date:	Saturday, March 18, 2023 3:54:31 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: [redacted]
To: Melinda Berlant
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Interim Housing Proposal
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:49:37 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]
LinkedIn

From: Asha DuMonthier
To: Adam Marcus
Cc: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for option 1 over option 2
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:52:05 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: Celeste Lindberg
To: Hernandez, Consuelo; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Proposed Interim Santa Clara Shelter
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 3:00:07 PM

Dear City and County officials,

I am a resident of Santa Clara and I am reaching out today to voice my strong support for the proposed interim housing project at Lawrence Expressway and Benton Street. I support this project because I believe every neighborhood needs to be part of the solution to homelessness and that housing is a human right.

Please represent the interests of our city and county by supporting this important project!

Thank you,

Celeste Lindberg
[redacted]
Santa Clara, CA 95051

From:	Pamela Rollins
To:	MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Unfair Style of Meeting
Date:	Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:41:11 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:	Jessica Wong
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Hillary.Barroga@hhs.sccgov.org; aurton; dontae.lartigue@razingthebar.org
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Vote No on Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Service Enriched Shelter
Date:	Tuesday, February 28, 2023 4:25:35 PM

My name is Jessica Wong, a resident of Santa Clara County.

I strongly oppose building the low-barrier container-style homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton. Here are a few points of concern. I'd appreciate it if you take them seriously and respond with a detailed answer to address them.

Major concerns:

Too close to 24 schools and daycares. Serious safety concern.

No serious and prior research on the impact of this shelter on the surrounding neighborhood.

80-100 rooms are too many for this tiny land.

Admission of people with a criminal history and drug issues, essentially no screening procedures.

Admission of people with mental issues.

Stacked-up, container-style tiny homes create a subpar living environment even for the unhoused.

No specific plans for management; no guarantee for neighborhood safety and quality of life.

Proposed staff/residents ratio of 1:100, and a plan that would utilize only volunteers to treat the mental illness of residents

This location is only 0.5 miles from another shelter, Bella Vista.

There is no solid data or evidence showing that LifeMoves's Moutain View homeless shelter succeeded in reducing the homeless population in the city or improving the homeless's mental issues.

Homeless families with kids and/or some belongings will very likely avoid moving into this shelter due to fear of crimes and drug use. Since the shelter will design to have a "low entry barrier" (essentially no screening of residents at all), it is quite likely that people with a criminal background, history of drug use/dealing, and repeat offenses will stay here. It will not be surprising that homeless from other states with questionable backgrounds will show up in our neighborhoods.

From White Oak Lane to Benton & Lawrence, these choices of location have repeatedly shown that some of the elected officials put spending up taxpayer's dollars before ensuring the

safety of the community.

Requests:

I request that you address the 300+ questions raised by the attendees in the first community meeting held on Feb-13, 2023 instead of cherry-picking a few to answer and ignoring the majority.

I request that you provide the date, time, and location of the April meetings to be attended by LifeMoves, and city and county staff to discuss community feedback. and I request that info be shared online & publicly accessible, so members of the community have a chance to join the discussion.

I request that the County always provide a virtual way (e.g. Zoom) to join the meetings that are held in person so that busy parents like me can participate.

I request that you provide verifiable research/study/data on how an interim/emergency shelter impacts the neighborhood.

I request that you share the plans about how you are making sure that young kids and students are safely walking to/from schools.

I request that you share the plans about how to handle the potential increase in parking and traffic gave that 80-120 units will be introduced to an already overcrowded neighborhood.

I request that you share how you would help the city of Santa Clara cope with the inevitable requirement to increase police funding/staffing in response to the increase in incidents/crimes in this area due to this shelter.

Are there any rules/regulations applicable to residents of the shelter? If they break the regulation, what accountability will be enforced?

What does the move-in process look like? Is there a maximum of time a resident can stay in this shelter? What is their day-to-day schedule (e.g. curfew)?

Is the shelter designed to accommodate unhoused people from the city of Santa Clara only, or from the county, or from anywhere in the country? How do you enforce geographical restrictions, if any?

Please share the details of resident management, including Lifemoves' plan, and source of first-year and long-term funding.

From: [redacted]
To: Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; khardy; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; PublicComment@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; cityofsantaclara@homebasec.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote NO on the Benton/Lawrence
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 8:54:54 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. If you are elected to represent our community, you should listen to the community's voice, show that you care about our opinon and our concerns!

This location is within walking distance to several elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single-family homes, apartments, and 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 being 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, and 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,
Savannah (resident on Benton st)

From: C L
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote NO to the homeless shelter of Lawrence & Benton
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 7:31:13 PM

Dear Consuelo,

I am a resident living in Santa Clara city. I write this email to express my strong opposition to the proposed homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton. I have elderly and kids at my home, and also this place is too close to so many elementary schools.

As a parent, a daughter, and member of this community, I am deeply concerned about the potential bad impact this shelter could have on the safety of our community.

Please vote No to the shelter. Please hear the voice from the community!

Thanks,
Chen Liao

From:	C L
To:	Amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Vote NO to the homeless shelter of Lawrence & Benton
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:58:42 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident living in Santa Clara city. I write this email to express my strong opposition to the proposed homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton. I have elderly and kids at my home, and also this place is too close to so many elementary schools.

As a parent, a daughter, and member of this community, I am deeply concerned about the potential bad impact this shelter could have on the safety of our community.

Please vote No to the shelter. Please hear the voice from the community!

Best regards,
Chen Liao

From: [redacted]
To: MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] We Need to STOP the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway. STOP! STOP! STOP!
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:06:40 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: [redacted]
To: MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; Amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] We Oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:15:41 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: Haiying Wu
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 7:59:54 AM

Director, Office of Supportive Housing Consuelo Hernandez,

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]
Santa Clara , California 95051

From: Raymond Chi
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 7:59:47 AM

Director, Office of Supportive Housing Consuelo Hernandez,

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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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
raychi@gmail.com
3271 Tracy Dr
Santa Clara, California 95051

From: Fay Dustin
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 8:19:10 AM

Director, Office of Supportive Housing Consuelo Hernandez,

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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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]
Santa Clara, California 95051

From:	Liz Goldman
To:	Ellenberg, Supervisor; Supervisor.Lee; khardy; kpark@santaclaraca.gov; Kathy Watanabe; sjain@santaclaraca.gov; abecker@santaclaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; rchahal; drush@santaclaraca.gov; safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com; MayorAndCouncil@santaclaraca.gov; kleincouncil; MeltonCouncil; mehlingercouncil@sunnyvale.ca.gov; amarcus@santaclaraca.gov; Hernandez, Consuelo; Supervisor Simitian; Chavez, Cindy; District1
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] You should not build low-barrier shelter at Benton, and here are the reasons.
Date:	Tuesday, March 21, 2023 1:45:14 PM

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of BIrdland. I and every member in my family strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to **cease consideration of this location as low-barrier shelter as soon as possible, and vote in opposition as our representative**. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the low-barrier interim housing.

Reason 1: Gathering criminals, drug addicts, and mental-disordered without professional treatment together in one building will dramatically increase violence and danger to the neighborhood.

It is confirmed in the past three meetings that people who will live in Benton interim housing will largely be drug addicts, criminals, sex offenders and mentally disordered. Those people need to be treated in professional facilities, NOT in an interim housing with only a few staff and a vocational nurse. Tons of data worldwide have confirmed the positive relation between drug addicts/mental illness without professional treatment and violence. Putting those dangerous people in a neighborhood full of young children, family and seniors is risky and reckless, and will definitely lead to devastating consequences. It only needs one tragedy to ruin a family, the entire neighborhood, and all voters' trust towards all the decision makers who fail to vote no to the Benton project.

Reason 2: Data confirmed crime rate trippled for a similar site in Milpitas. Neighborhood's concern on safety is real

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 site is still isolated from the neighborhood. The closest house is ½ miles away. For Benton, **the closest house is less than 20 ft away.** 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.**

Reason 3: No plan on operation fund and cost even after three community hearings. County and city just want to rush to approve to secure the last round of HomeKey funding.

Consuelo said the site will be partially funded by Homekey fund for the first 2-3 years. It means even for the initial stage, city or county have to fund it but there is no discussion at all on how much and if they have sufficient money. Also the site will be here for at least 15 years. What would happen for the remaining 13 years? It is very likely the Benton site in 2-3 years will become an abandoned building full of criminals, drug addicts and mentally disordered homeless. **City or county have no plan at all. All of those plannings need to happen before voting on the project, and actually should have happened before public hearing.** So I urge the city to pause voting on this until the funding and operational plan become sound and solid.

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 low barrier interim housing at Benton.

Liz

From: [redacted]
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Possible hybrid community meeting?
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 2:35:02 PM

Counselo,

P.S., another point I want to add to below is that the existing Benton Lawrence lot is already zoned for residential, so there is no need to go through re-zoning process to convert it to residential. That adheres to my other point that the project is planned on a land that's intended for its purpose.

"**Please include the following comments to the community engagement report:**

If an interim housing has to be built in Santa Clara, I think Benton and Lawrence is not a bad location. The property is bounded by two main streets that already have busy traffic; therefore, the project itself will not negatively increase the noise and traffic. The east side of property is a church, which is non-residential. There are residential homes at south of the property, but there is also a Calabazas Creek separating the property and the homes, creating a nice buffer between the two. All other residential communities are across the streets from Benton or Lawrence - they all have sound walls and the streets are very wide, so the impact to those homes will be minimal.

As for services and amenities, the site is across the street from a gas station and a strip mall - very convenient to the future occupants of project. There's also a Kaiser hospital down the street on Homestead - it's ideal for occupants who may need health care services. Next to Kaiser, there's also a commercial plaza with more restaurants and services available. The location itself is convenient.

I understand the community has concerns about security and privacy with this project. These can be resolved by having proper security oversight, and build tall trees/barrier in area of concerns. I suggest having additional community workshops, getting inputs from neighbors on design of the site will be beneficial.

I also see that there is not a bus line close by on Benton and Lawrence, but there is bus services on Homesteads and El Camino within walking or biking. I suggest the project to provide sufficient on-site bike parking, and/or suggest the city to make a more pedestrian-friendly walking path on Lawrence, such as increasing the width of sidewalk and add barriers on the east side of Lawrence for safety. I believe that will also benefit nearby communities by having pedestrian/biking improvements on Lawrence.

I think this site is a good selection with minimal impact to the community. If the County decides to change the site to another location in Santa Clara, it will always be next to other schools and other homes. The problems will be the same, but shifting to another area, and it will become someone else's problems. There has been suggestions to move this to a remote industrial area of Santa Clara, but that will leave the project occupants with no services or amenities.

I believe this site is great for what's intended. I heard the site was already planned for RV parking or some sort of shelters, so building an interim housing there is not out of the line. The

site is vacant with no existing structures, so no demolition is needed. Renovating existing structures can be more costly than putting new modular/prefab homes on a vacant lot.

Therefore, I support the site location for this project at Lawrence and Benton."

Sincerely,
-Cindy

> On Mar 1, 2023, at 10:54 AM, Hernandez, Consuelo <Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org> wrote:
>
> There are several ways that you can share your comments.
>
> 1. Email staff and your email will be included with the community engagement report we will be publishing and sharing with our elected officials (Consuelo.Hernandez@hhsc.sscgov.org; amarcus@Santaclaraca.gov; and mjackson@lifemoves.org)
> 2. Email City elected officials
> 3. Email Board President Ellenberg's as this site is located in her district supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org
> 4. Email Vice President Lee as his district abuts the site Supervisor.Lee@bos.sccgov.org
>
> Thank you for staying engaged.
>
> Consuelo Hernandez, AICP
> Director, Office of Supportive Housing
> (408) 510-8595
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: [redacted]
> Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:48 AM
> To: Hernandez, Consuelo <Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org>
> Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Possible hybrid community meeting?
>
> Consuelo,
>
> I am glad to hear the zoom option is being considered, and tonight's and March 9's meetings will be recorded and posted.
>
> Also, If I have a few public comments to make to the decision makers of this site selection, who should I write to?
>
> -Cindy
>
> > On Mar 1, 2023, at 10:41 AM, Hernandez, Consuelo <Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org> wrote:

Good Morning Cindy,

We are working to add a fourth zoom meeting for the community.

Since we are hosting the in-person meetings at a local faith-based facility, we are limited in our ability to provide a hybrid option. We are going to see if there is a way to do this but not making any premature commitments at this time. We will be recording the meeting and posting it on the project website.

Thank you for staying engaged.

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP
Director, Office of Supportive Housing
(408) 510-8595

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:38 AM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo <Consuelo.Hernandez@hhs.sccgov.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Possible hybrid community meeting?

Hi Consuelo,

I support the LifeMoves project at Benton and Lawrence. However, I am not able to attend tonight's and the next community meetings because I can't make it in person. Is there a way to add a zoom option for the future community meeting on March 9?

Sincerely,
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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