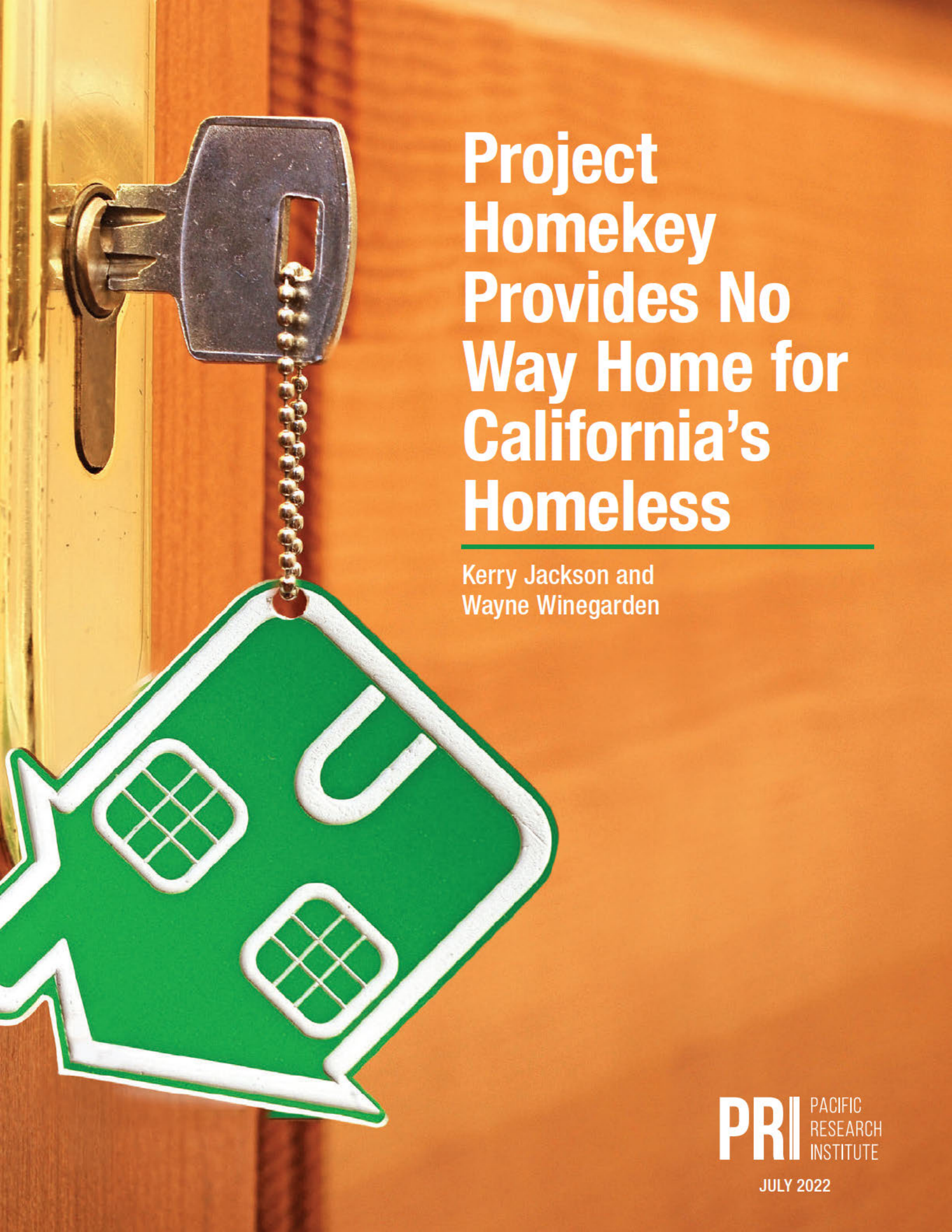


Project Homekey Provides No Way Home for California's Homeless

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PACIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

The Evolution of Project Homekey

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Project Homekey Has Not Stemmed the Rise in Homelessness

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

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

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

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

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

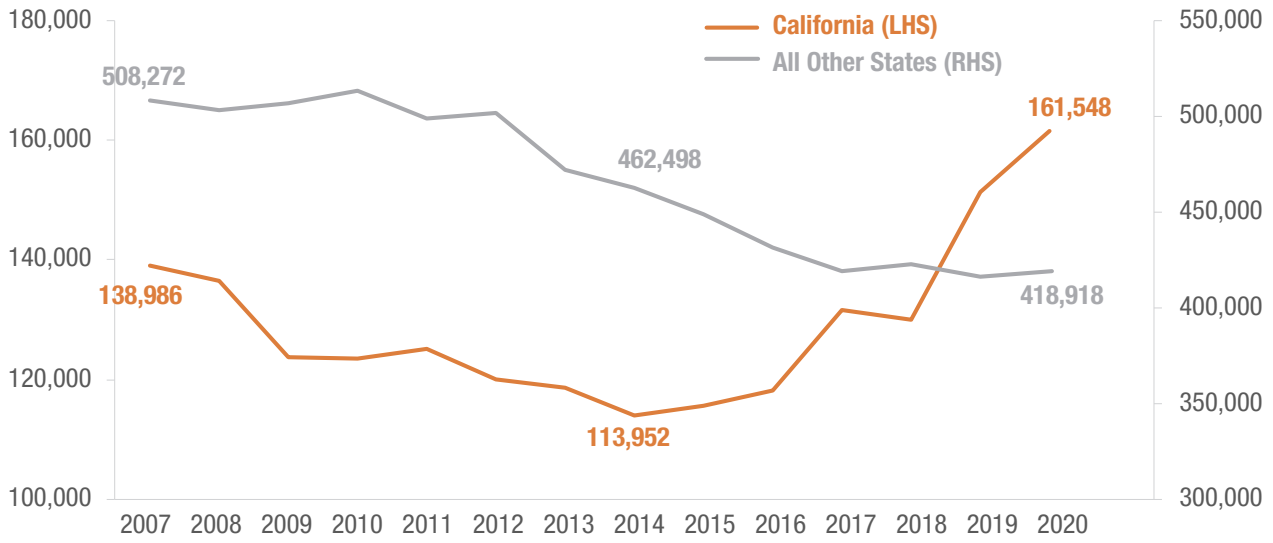
Sacramento County's homeless population was fewer than 2,700 as recently as 2015.[18]

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

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

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

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



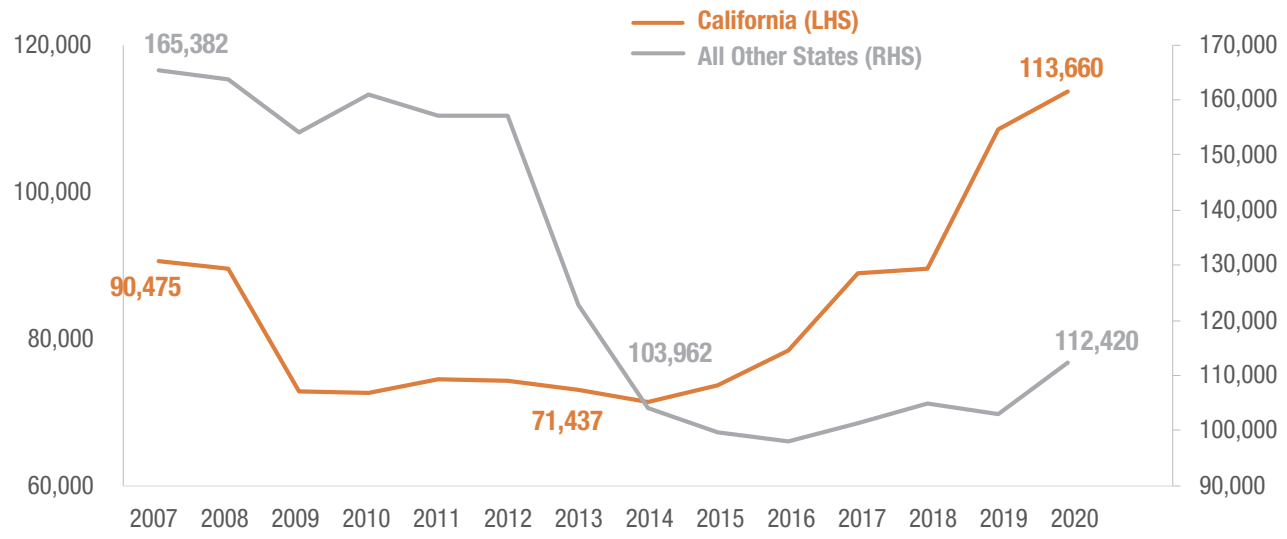
Source: HUD

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

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

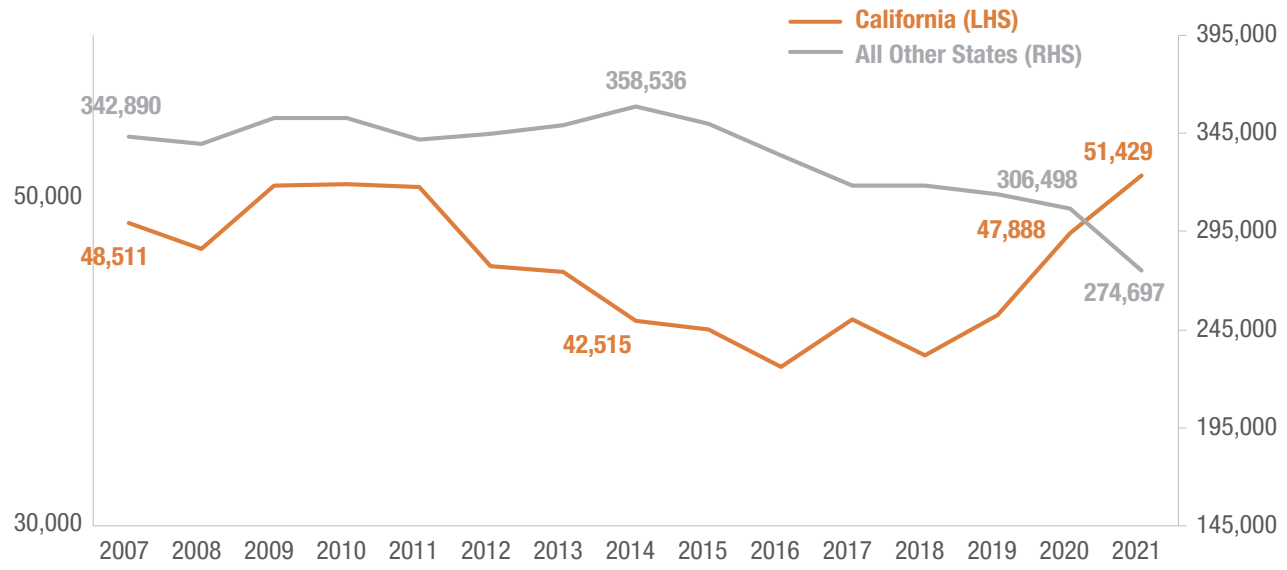
Second, the growth in the sheltered homeless population starting in 2019 did not have any appreciable impact on the trend growth of the unsheltered population. Instead, both types of homelessness – sheltered and unsheltered – continue to worsen through 2020. Importantly, while the COVID-19 pandemic prevented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

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



Source: HUD

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



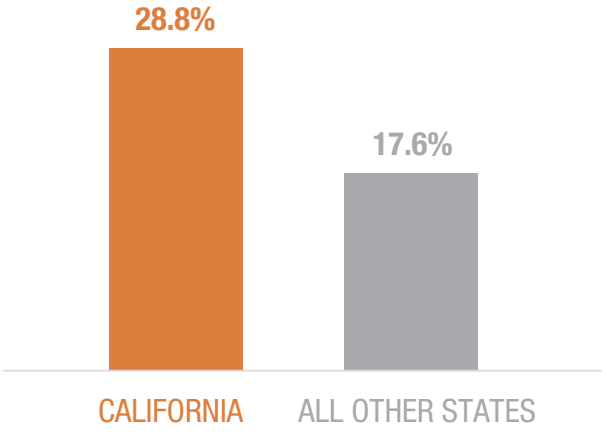
Source: HUD

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

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

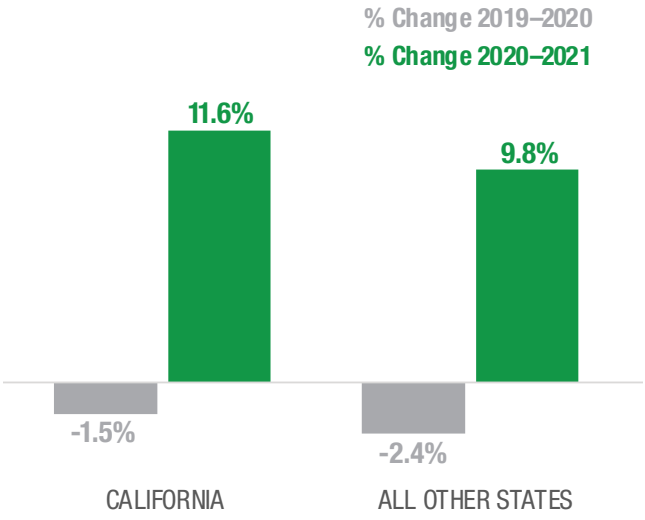
These growth discrepancies are important because a growing economy should reduce the number of homeless people. The growth in the homeless population in California relative to the decline in homelessness in the remaining states raises further questions regarding the efficacy of California's programs,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

FIGURE 4. PERCENTAGE CHANGE NOMINAL GDP, 2014–2020



Source: Author calculations based on data from the BEA

FIGURE 5. PERCENTAGE CHANGE NOMINAL GDP



Source: Author calculations based on data from the BEA

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

Project Homekey Is Failing Los Angeles

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Project Homekey Is Not Helping San Francisco

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Project Homekey Is Similarly Ineffective in Rest of the Bay Area

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

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

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

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

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

Claiming Success Does Not Make It So

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

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

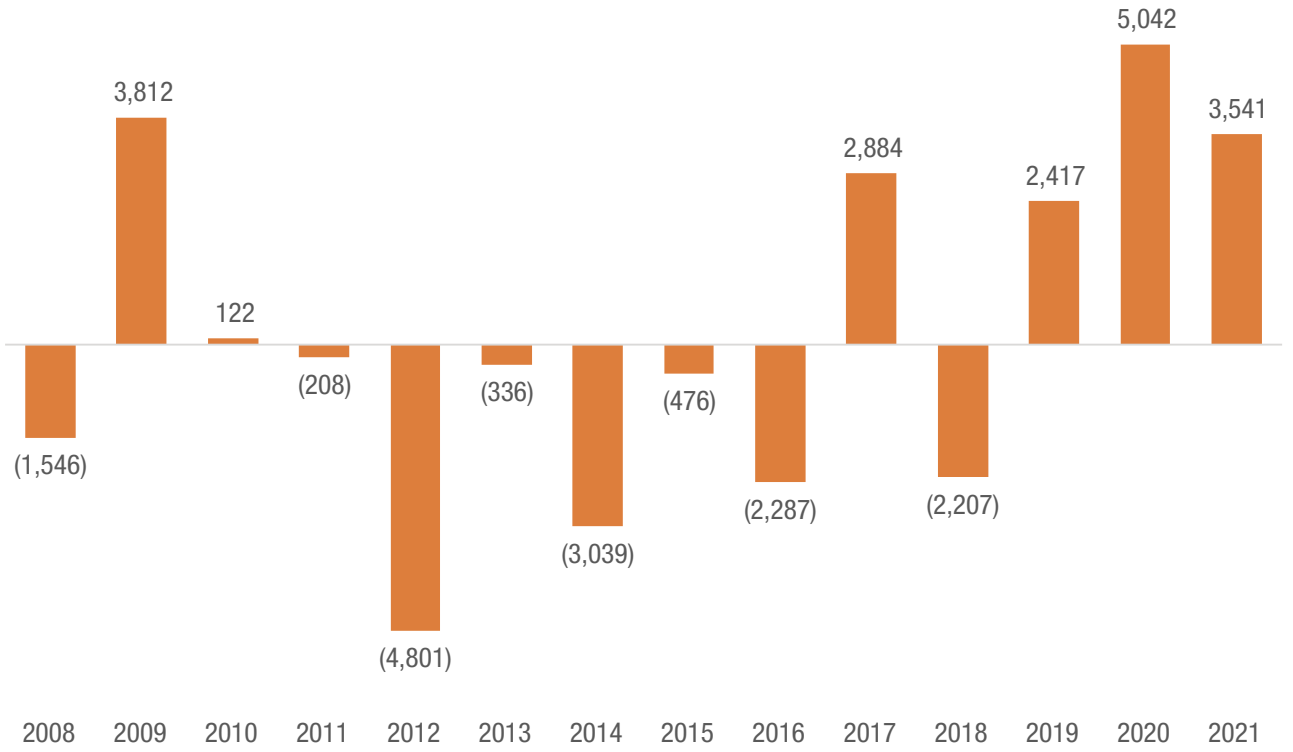
> The actual number of people out of the streets and in housing via the governor's signature Project Homekey thus far is about 8,000, although the program – which turned dilapidated hotels and motels across the state *into permanent ho*using with wraparound services – is expanding to bring on another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

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

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

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

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



Source: Author calculations based on HUD data

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

Los Angeles' Measure HHH Fails to Deliver Results

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CARE Court Proposal Shows Potential

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

From the administration's fact sheet:

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion/Recommendations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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About PRI

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

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Working Together
in solving Homelessness without compromising on Safety

Agenda (4/4/23)

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



Our Current State

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

Supportive Housing & officials' Viewpoint

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

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

Low entry barrier does not mean NO entry barrier

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

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

No adverse impact to assessed property values due to supportive housing

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

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

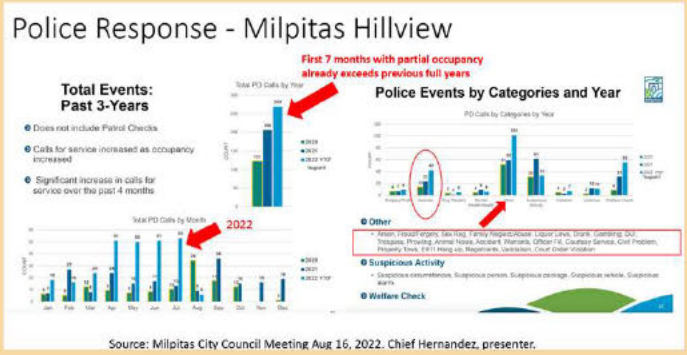
Our Current State: Santa Clara Residents (>80% per poll)

Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway

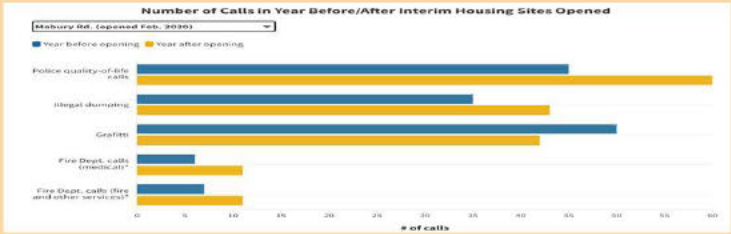
Santa Clara Residents' Viewpoint

HOMELESS POPULATION BY JURISDICTION AND SHELTER STATUS

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



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



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

Our elected officials are not listening to us

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

Tax Dollars are being misused

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

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

Risk of increased **drug related activities**

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

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

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

Property Values will decrease – we have mortgages!

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

Neighborhoods will be less walkable

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

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

Working Together

Working Together: Background and facts

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

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

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

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

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

HOMELESS POPULATION BY JURISDICTION AND SHELTER STATUS

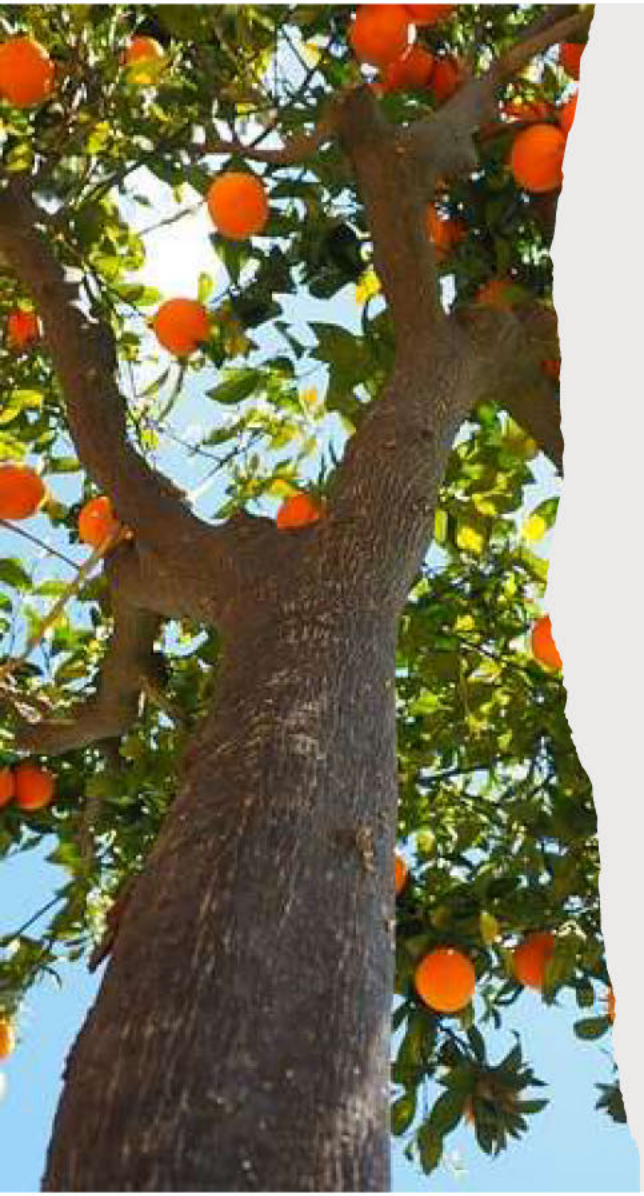
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City of Campbell	74	216	0	0	74	216	191%
City of Cupertino	159	102	0	0	159	102	-36%
City of Gilroy	345	606	359	208	704	814	16%
City of Los Altos	76	65	0	0	76	65	-14%
City of Los Altos Hills	2	0	0	0	2	0	*
Town of Los Gatos	16	58	0	0	16	58	*
City of Milpitas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

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



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

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



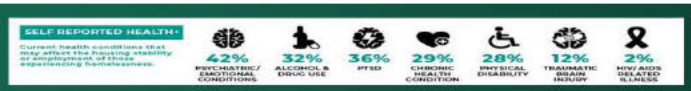
Working Together: Location Matters

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



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Working Together: Different Needs*



42% PSYCHIATRIC/ EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS

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

32% ALCOHOL & DRUG USE

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

28% PHYSICAL DISABILITY

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

*For Illustration Purposes

Working Together: Lifecycle approach*

SELF REPORTED HEALTH+

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



Legal US Residents with a job/employment

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

Legal US Residents without a job/employment

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

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

Residents’ Recommendation

Recommendation: Prevention



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

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

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

- Rent To Own

Prevent families from a homeless future

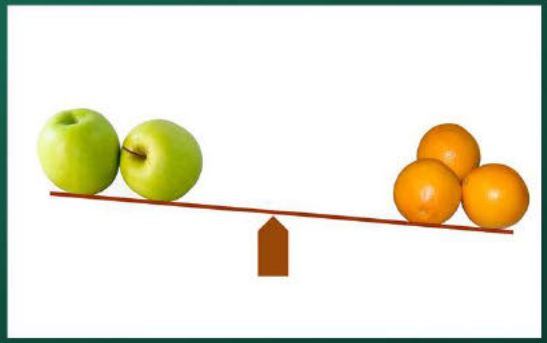
Permanent Neighbors

- Uplift Families
- Uplift Communities

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

Happy Residents

Comparison between options (For Lawrence/Benton Site)



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



Thank You!

References

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

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

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

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

maximum stay?

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

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

Alternative plan for Benton

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

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

Regards,
Connie Chou, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

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

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

--

Best regards,
Dan Zhao

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

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

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

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

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

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

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

the Benton project's viability.

Regards,

Howard

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

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

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

--

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

Hello,

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

Gaby Gemetti

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

Hello,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Wu Wen

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

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

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Thanks.
Jacob

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

Mayor Gilmore, Santa Clara Councilmembers, County Supervisors:

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

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

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

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

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

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

programs.

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

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

Table 2: Comparison of Branhan and Benton location

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Good evening,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the April 25 meeting, we demand they:

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

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

Thank you for your attention,

Cindy

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

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

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

Hello Adam

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

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

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

Regards
Venkat Akileshwaran

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

Hello Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nancy Von Handorf
[redacted]

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

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

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

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

Comment:

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

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

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

Hi City & County staff and elected officials,

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

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

Thanks,
Asha DuMonthier

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

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

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. **Budget**:

    -

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

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

Alternative plan for Benton

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

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

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

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

Regards,
Harsha Vashisht, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

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

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alternative plan for Benton

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

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

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

Regards,
Pushpanjali S,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

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

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

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WIth regards,
Rachna Lal
Resident of [redacted] Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

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

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alternative plan for Benton

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

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

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

Regards,
Santosh Singh,

Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

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

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

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

due to them:

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

4.

Budget:

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

5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,
Divyashree Ramesh,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

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

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,
Sonia Singhal,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

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

Dear Consuelo & Adam,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Helen Zong

--
Sincerely,

Sharon

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

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

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

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

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

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

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

Resource:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To Consuelo and Santa Clara county:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincere,

Household and house owner of [redacted].

Ethan Chou
[redacted]

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

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We need your support in making safety the topmost priority.

Regards,
Ashish
Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

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

Dear Mayor and Council members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We need your support in making safety the topmost priority.

Regards,
Anupama T

Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

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

Hello All,

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

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

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

Dear Mayor and Council,

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

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

City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

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

Dear Mayor and Council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Judy Crates
[redacted]

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

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

Best,
Chantal

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

[redacted]

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

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

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

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

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

Apologies, the registration link should now be working.

Homekey Round 3

Register to attend NOFA webinar

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

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

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

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

Register to attend the NOFA webinar

April 20, 2023
10am - 12pm

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

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

For more information, please visit the Homekey webpage.

Questions? [redacted]

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hcd.ca.gov

Department of Housing & Community Development | [redacted]

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

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

Dear Mayor and Council,

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

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

City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

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

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

to supervisor.lee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here is the shelter queue info.

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

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

Hello,

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

Thanks,
Shelly

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

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

Thank you.

Laurens Bush

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hi

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

Saihua

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

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

Regards,

Eric Sung

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

Dear Council Member,

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Junwei Wei

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

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

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

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

Regards,
Robert Vu

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

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

Hi,

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

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

R. Elysa Gurman (she/they)

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,
Lisa Eckstein

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

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

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

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

Sources:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R. Elysa Gurman (she/they)

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

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

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

Sources:

Finding Homeless Patients A Place To Heal

Transportation and Homelessness: A Systematic Review

Homelessness & Food Deserts in Los Angeles

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

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

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

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

R. Elysa Gurman (she/they)

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

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

Greetings,

Thank you all for the meeting this evening.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jean L

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:

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

Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alternative plan for Benton

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

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

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

Tina Liu
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

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

Elected Officials of City of Santa Clara:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best Regards,

Wo Family
Residents of City of Santa Clara

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

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

Angela Rausch attached a document

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

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

LS Support Letter Benton/Lawrence

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

Hello Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sierra

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

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

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

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

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

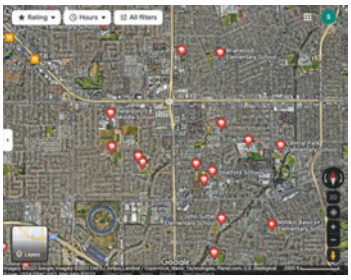
From: goog le[redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 2:49 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo[redacted]
Cc: Adam Marcus[redacted] Marie Jackson[redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Analysis - Unsheltered by City

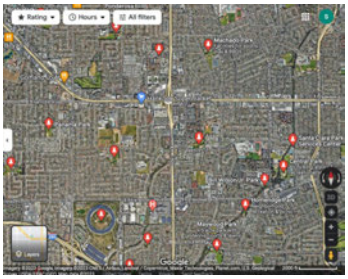
Hi Consuelo,

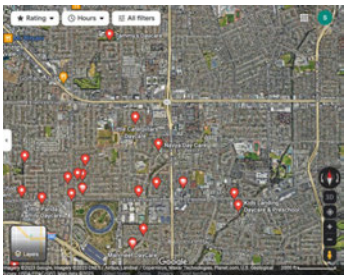
Thank you for your message I will check with a few folks on their availability I might be on jury duty next week I hope to know on Monday whether or not I'll be called

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

Thanks again!







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

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

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

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

Thank you for engaging with us Have a wonderful evening

Consuelo

Get Outlook for iOS

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

Hi Consuelo,

Thank you for sharing the additional information this evening

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

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

Thank you

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

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

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

Good Afternoon,

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

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

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

Thank you for staying engaged with us

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

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

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

No

--
Gurinder Dhillon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Residents have rights too.

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



Mountain View



Milipitas



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

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

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

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

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

Hello,

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

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

Oppose Benton Shelter

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

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

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

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

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

5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse

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

7. County providing false and misleading info

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

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

I'm counting on you.

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

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

Hi,

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

Please vote 'NO' to this.

Best,
Frey

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

Dear Respected Mr. Marcus,
Good morning.

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

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

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

Have a great day.
Thanks,
Chandrasekhar Maddipatla

Get Outlook for iOS

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

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

--
Huasha Zhao

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

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

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

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

Regards
Denisse Tostado
Resident of 95051
[redacted]

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

To Consuelo Hernández and Adam Marcus:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you
Birdland Neighbors

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

Hi,

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

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

Thanks,
R. Elysa Gurman (she/they)

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

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

I have some additional questions about the proposed project:

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

Thank you for your attention to these questions.

David Melius
[redacted]

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

Hello Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hello Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hello Consuelo and Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hi Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks,

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

Director, Office of Supportive Housing

[redacted]

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

Hello Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for staying engaged and sharing your thoughts.

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

Director, Office of Supportive Housing

[redacted]

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

Hello Consuelo and Adam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best,

Cindy

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

Hello Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

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

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

> Hi Cindy,

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

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

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

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

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

Consuelo

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

Hello Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks,

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

Director, Office of Supportive Housing

[redacted]

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

Hello Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

Thank you for staying engaged and sharing your thoughts.

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

Director, Office of Supportive Housing

[redacted]

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

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

Hello Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks again for staying in touch!

Sierra

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

Hi Sierra,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you again for staying engaged Have a wonderful weekend

Consuelo

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

Hello Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sierra

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hi Consuelo,

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

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

Thanks again!

<image001 png>

<image002 png>

<image003 png>

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

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

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

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

Thank you for engaging with us Have a wonderful evening

Consuelo

Get Outlook for iOS

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

Hi Consuelo,

Thank you for sharing the additional information this evening

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

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

Thank you

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

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

Good Afternoon,

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

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

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

Thank you for staying engaged with us

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

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

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

N

Nick Griffin | RCD | [redacted]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nick

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

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

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

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

Thanks,

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

City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

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

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



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

Joseph Dang

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

Good Afternoon,

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

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

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

Thank you for staying engaged with us.

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

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

Adding Councilmember Jain.

Regards,
Jeff Houston
[redacted]

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

Hello Consuelo,

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

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

Regards,
Jeff Houston
[redacted]

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

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

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

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

Thanks,
Shu

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

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

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

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

Hi,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thanks,

Shu

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

Hello,

No to this Proposal at Benton and Lawrence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you again,

Jean L

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jean L

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

Hi Mr. Adam and Ms. Consuelo,

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,
Ashish

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

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

Adam Marcus (he/him)

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

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

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

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

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

---

1. **Crime & Property Statistics**

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

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

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

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

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



3. Safety & Security (due to the <u>drug afflicted folks</u> who may not yet have been rehabilitated walking around the neighborhoods)

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

Related response on FAQ that doesn't seem to answer the questions from above (the link doesn't seem to work as well):







4. **Budget**:

- Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

No response yet

5. Throughput

- What's the overall throughput of clients across different lifemoves centers going by 120/240/360 days (giving a better understanding of where every client landed after getting a service in **<u>such an interim shelter</u>**)

No Response yet on FAQ (Residents would like to see the data that's based on interim shelters **<u>similar</u>** to the ones proposed for this site)

6. Kitchen

- We would need kitchens especially for family based units

Not yet covered on FAQ (residents who would like families to be prioritized would like proper kitchens for families so that if it becomes permanent housing later on, it remains functional):

7. **Smoking Area**

- Would the facility have its own smoking area so that the "clients" do not congregate on the streets for smoking?

Not yet covered on FAQ

8. **Quality of Life:**

- How would the project respect the privacy of residents due to its height?
- What would be the responsibility of LifeMoves or site managers in keeping the surroundings clean (free of litter etc. from its clients)?

Note yet covered on FAQ

Regards,

Ashish

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Lawrence/Benton: Some unanswered questions or open items that could be covered in FAQ or upcoming Zoom Call on 3/22
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:45:50 AM

Hi Mr. Adam and Ms. Consuelo,

I recently heard from several folks that there could be a correlation to the increase in the number of homeless people in Santa Clara county with the release of prisoners during peak Covid times. I haven't been able to look into this myself from a data perspective. Granted,that doesn't change anything regarding the total number of homeless folks that need housing, it actually makes the concern around safety and security even more grave (if that assumption is valid). Would it be possible for you to cover this in the next session on 3/22?

A number of people that I have personally talked with, supported the solution of getting rehabilitation from substance abuse first, before getting such folks in close proximity to kids and residents. Please understand that if it were a fail safe screened process where families with jobs in the area on the verge of being homeless (eviction etc.) could be provided a relief and prevented from going down that cycle, you'd have seen an embracing community. I hope that we find a path in which we all could come together, not just for this project but for overall solution.

Thanks,
Ashish

On Fri, Mar 17, 2023 at 8:17 AM Ashish Verma [redacted] > wrote:

> Hi Mr. Adam and Ms. Consuelo,
>
> There were a couple of topics that got debated quite a bit in the last few days. These were:
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Thanks for listening to the feedback from the community and your readiness to make adjustments that are a better fit. I hope you are able to present the facts associated with these questions that help our council members in taking decisions that achieve good outcomes for both the homekey initiative as well as the residents.

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> Adam Marcus (he/him)
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> City of Santa Clara
> Housing & Community Services Division
> [redacted]
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Ashish Verma <[redacted]>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 12:35 PM
> **To:** [redacted]; Adam Marcus [redacted]
> **Cc:** Mayor and Council <[redacted]>;
> [redacted]
> **Subject:** Lawrence/Benton: Some unanswered questions or open items that could be covered in FAQ or upcoming Zoom Call on 3/22
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>
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Impact on property prices based on **market** data (not assessed value) - proving that home values won't decrease (Usually #1 has a correlation with #2)
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Response on FAQ (It doesn't match with searches done by the residents or anecdotal evidences)



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Response on FAQ (residents not satisfied by the response):



3. **Safety & Security (due to the drug afflicted folks who may not yet have been rehabilitated walking around the neighborhoods)**
   - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
   - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
   - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?
   - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?

Related response on FAQ that doesn't seem to answer the questions from above (the link doesn't seem to work as well):







4. **Budget**:
   - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

No response yet

5. **Throughput**
   - What's the overall throughput of clients across different lifemoves centers going by 120/240/360 days (giving a better understanding of where every client landed after getting a service in **such an interim shelter**)

No Response yet on FAQ (Residents would like to see the data that's based on interim shelters **similar** to the ones proposed for this site)

6. **Kitchen**
   - We would need kitchens especially for family based units

Not yet covered on FAQ (residents who would like families to be prioritized would like proper kitchens for families so that if it becomes permanent housing later on, it remains functional):

7. **Smoking Area**
   - Would the facility have its own smoking area so that the "clients" do not congregate on the streets for smoking?

Not yet covered on FAQ

8. **Quality of Life:**
   - How would the project respect the privacy of residents due to its height?
   - What would be the responsibility of LifeMoves or site managers in keeping the surroundings clean (free of litter etc. from its clients)?

Note yet covered on FAQ

Regards,

Ashish

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Low-barrier Interim Housing project proposal at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 11:43:04 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City:

I strongly oppose the low-barrier interim housing project proposal at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway (3590 Benton Street).

I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

These are some urgent questions that must be satisfactorily answered before any proposal can be considered. I urge you to immediately vote NO on the proposed homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

1) How do Santa Clara County and City Santa Clara ensure the safety of the 11,000 children who are attending the more than 15 schools near the proposed homeless site? The failed experiment at MTV and Milpitas clearly have shown crimes have shot up 300% after the shelter was built at the surrounding neighborhood. What is County's plan on the safety of 11,000 children?

2) What are the successful rate of the homeless people who entered the shelter and later finding permeant housing? According to statistics from the two nearby locations, MTV and Milpitas, the homeless who entered these facilities and later finding permeant home is less than 20%! This is clearly a waste of tax dollars! We need to work on improving the failing existing homeless shelters before building more of them. Repeating a failed model will only result in failure. Are there any plan to improve the outcome of the two existing shelters before we proposing more?

3)The homeless people who don't find permeant housing (less than 20%! successful rate) and who are at the end of their stay, are they just going to be forced out of the shelter? They are going to congregate near the shelter site, thereby impacting the immediate neighborhood. It will only get worse as time goes by! There will be more and more homeless at our neighborhood. This is not solving the homeless problem. It is just dumping the homeless, and issues that come with homeless at our neighborhood. We must stop this from happening. What is the County's plan to mitigate this problem?

4) If as proposed the "interim homeless shelter" will take on the "most challenged homeless", what kind of security force does a 200+ persons homeless shelter comes with? One clearly would expect a higher ration of security force for the "most challenged homeless". An 20 persons security force (an one to ten ratio) may or may not even be able to handle the situations that surely will arise. Have the County done any study on this matter, and will the County provide the security force?

5) If the "interim homeless shelter" is a drug free environment as stated, what kind of medical help is provided for the 200+ persons homeless at the shelter? We can't expect a drug addict to become clean on the

day he/she moved into the shelter. If he/she can not find help at the shelter, he/she will be doing drug near the shelter, in nearby parks, at the school yards, in our neighborhood! With the shelter's plan to admit the "most challenged homeless", there got to be a high number of doctors and nurses on site to meet the challenges. How many doctor and nurse does the County plan to assign to this shelter full time?

6) A homeless shelter is not a jail. Therefore the homeless are free to go in and out of the shelter, as I understand it. And keep in mind these are the "most challenging homeless". 200+ “interim homeless shelter” residents will be doing their “business” and wandering around the immediate neighborhood. With the concentration of 200+ "most challenging homeless", many no doubt with drug additions at this location, drug dealers will be attracted to come; it is well documented a concentration of homeless people will attract drug dealers, as in Tenderloin, San Francisco. How many additional fulltime police officers are assigned to this precinct for this proposed project?

7) What does Santa Clara County plan to do when at the end of their "interim" stay, when a homeless does not find permeant housing? Does the county has any plan to bus them back to where they were found? Or the county just let them out and hope for the best? Where does the

county think the homeless will go? The answer is very obvious. They will just walk into the immediate neighborhood, OUR neighborhood! Does the County has any busing plan to move the homeless to where they want to go?

8) This lot has been used for community activities for many many years, such as pumpkin patch's, Christmas tree sales and more. Where will the local kids go if the County takes away this activities lot? What will the County provide as an alternative?

Clearly the County needs to do much more extensive studies before proposing 2350 Benton Street for an interim housing development.

NO homeless shelter at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway!

Regards,
Ben W.
and family
Long Time Proud Residents of City of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Re: We Oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:17:18 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Ben Wo and family
Residents of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 5:31:59 PM

Dear Ms Hernandez,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:09:08 AM

Hi Sir,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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--
Regards,
Jo Yu Hung

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:08:00 AM

Hi Sir,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

--
Regards,
Amber Hung

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 7:49:10 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

HUIYUAN Tan

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:03:41 PM

Dear Mr. Hernandez,

My name is Bing Tai and I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thanks,
Bing

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:57:59 AM

Dear offciers,

My Name is Bowen Chen and I lives in Santa Clara.

Home address is [redacted]

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Best regards,

Bowen

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 7:26:37 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Cong Liu

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 11:43:36 AM

Dear Ms. Hernandez and Santa Clara City and County Council members,

Let me start by saying when I went to the first community meeting on 3/1/23, I went expecting a cordial and constructive communication session, where there will be back and forth dialogues and the neighbors would get their questions answered right then. This is Santa Clara after all! There was none of that. I was aghast and extremely disappointed with the hostility and exasperation exhibited toward the neighbors on both 3/1 and 3/9 meetings. This is our home, our neighborhood, our everyday lives -- unlike some or most of the council members and a good number of 3/9 "in favor" attendees who at least had the decency to admit they didn't even live in the neighborhood. Most of us are just everyday people, fortunate enough to have a roof but, look, it's not like we have a silver spoon. We're working ourselves to the ground dealing with this economy, trying to make the mortgage, trying to make the bills, and trying to provide for our families and keep them safe. We don't have a Plan B because we cannot afford one. Our home, our neighborhood is just a spot on the map to you and the housing agencies; but this is all we have, and this is our everyday life. Please find an alternative location for the project. The city and county members have alternatives and choices; we the neighbors do not have an alternative.

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to

manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Regards,
Chao-Wen Huang

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:05:52 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:33:39 PM

Hello All,

As a taxpayer of Santa Clara County, I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Fan

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:59:01 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:58:38 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:31:36 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.

THIS IS SLEAZY on so many levels although expected from politicians.

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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--
Gurinder Dhillon

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:16:29 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

--
Hardikkumar Darji

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:06:39 PM

Hi there,

As a resident of Santa Clara, **I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.** Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Lee

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:04:46 PM

Hi County officials,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Resident of Santa Clara,

Hongliang

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 1:25:49 PM

Hi there,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

best,
Huan

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion, Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 1:05:33 PM

Hi,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Sincerely,
Jeff Li

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 11:24:23 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that:

1. A representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz.
2. The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office.
3. Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Sincerely,

Jonathan & Shannon, Santa Clara natives, born & raised.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:14:54 AM

Dear Ms. Hernandez and all,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thank you.

Regards,

Julia

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:04:36 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Junyu Zheng
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:57:27 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:56:12 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Thanks,
-Lorie

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion, Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 6:01:07 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Luyao

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:27:28 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:06:36 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant lists are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

-A Santa Clara resident

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 5:05:20 PM

It shocked and angry me that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy.It is cheating and unacceptable, you lost your credit and made democracy like a joke. Please, STOP IT.
Remember, all you did will be remembered and recorded, it will catch you in the end.

Resident of Santa Clara,
Ping

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 8:07:11 PM

Content:

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thanks,

Concerned Santa Clara resident

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:50:18 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:55:41 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 9:01:31 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Regards,
Rémy Bernard

From: Rui [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:56:54 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted] Liang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:56:18 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:54:40 PM

Hello,

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--
Best Regards,

Rui Liang

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:03:05 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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3) Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thank you for listening.
Sandrine

From: Sergey [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 8:08:20 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: Shan-[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:12:00 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: Sharilyn [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 4:53:50 PM

Hi,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Best,
Sharilyn

From: [redacted] Shroff
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:54:35 AM

Consuelo,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: Shea [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:10:15 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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--
Regards,
Jason Shea

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:59:53 PM

Hello!

Hope this email finds you well.

I'm a resident in the Benton community. I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that 1) a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a co-host alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. 2) The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. 3) Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thank you!

Siyu
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:20:51 PM

As a resident of Benton neighborhood, I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Sizhuo Zhang
[redacted]

From: sky[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom!
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:00:13 AM

To Representatives of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

As a local resident, **I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. THEY DON'T EVEN LIVE HERE AND THEY DON'T CARE!!!!!! As the representative of residents, how can you let such things happen? Do you truly represent us?**

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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By A Long term residents of Benton Neighborhood.

From: [redacted] Win
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:12:43 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:16:17 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Best,
Victoria

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 11:54:58 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Thanks,
Vipul

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:12:50 PM

Mr. Hernandez,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Best Regards,
- Yin Wei

Address: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 8:13:23 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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--

Haoyu Chen

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 8:08:21 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: Xuri [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:28:38 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:57:44 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thanks,
-Xuyan

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:59:25 AM

Hi,

I'm a current resident in the area that will be affected by this project and I'm writing to express my **disappointment and concerns** with what is going on recently. I heard that institutions and individuals that do not live in the community were taken into serious consideration in this matter, which I found unacceptable and unbelievable. For them, it is just one politically right thing to say with no costs to them at all. For us that are currently living in this area, there is a huge price to pay including sacrificing the safe community because of those unstable and dangerous peeple. The political right needs to stop! Do not act kind when you have nothing to lose.

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Regards,
Yi Huang

From: Yiming [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 2:00:47 PM

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment regarding the recent public hearing (March 9th) on the Benton project, specifically the use of invited supporters who were portrayed as local community members. It is unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak and disguised themselves as local neighbors. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion, clearly violating the principles of law and democracy.

During the March 9th meeting, at least five speakers were from housing advocate organizations, who did not reside in the Benton neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen college students to support and speak for the project, none of whom were from the Benton neighborhood. Such behavior is not conducive to fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, and I have zero tolerance for it.

Therefore, for the upcoming March 22nd meeting, I strongly urge the city and county to make changes to ensure fair and transparent community outreach meetings regarding the Benton project. Specifically, I request that the meeting be held in person or that a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood be added to host the virtual meeting with Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. The co-host should have the same meeting permission and control, and the meeting should be hosted from the same physical location, such as Ms. Hernandez's office. Additionally, live comments and participant lists should always be visible to everyone. These measures are essential to ensure that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

In conclusion, the city and county should take this matter seriously and make the necessary changes to ensure fair and transparent community outreach meetings regarding the Benton project. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

From: Yunqi [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 12:18:26 PM

Hi Consuelo,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: Zhe[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:14:03 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: Zheyu [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 7:22:58 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that 1) a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a co-host alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. 2) The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. 3) Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 6:10:35 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Sent from my iPhone

From: So[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strong objection to benton&lawrence shelter project
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 7:59:55 PM

Hi there,
I am a resident with young kids living in 95051. I am writing to express my strong objection to the benton&lawerence shelter project. I understand that the goal of this project is to provide shelter for the homeless, but I believe that the site is not a terrible choice.

The site is in walking distance to several private and public elementary schools.
The shelter will bring uncertainty in the neighborhood and is a huge safety concern to nearby students. I strongly urge you to reconsider the location.

Sincerely,

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strongly Oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location.
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:19:24 PM

Hello,

My name is Rui Liang , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find a non-residential land for the facility like this. I'm counting on you.

--
Best Regards,

Rui Liang

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strongly Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 1:00:13 PM

Dear officers,

I'm a resident near the proposed Benton shelter. I'm living 0.2 miles from this location and I strongly oppose this plan.
I'm a father of two kids. We were living in Sunnyvale last year. There was a person with mental health issues in our neighborhood and often shouted aloud during the day. My kids were so scared and not willing to play outside of the house. This causes both mental and physical harms to my kids and forced me to move to the current home in Santa Clara. I have learned that a significant portion of the homeless people in this proposed shelter have mental health issues. The would be a serious threaten to the safety and mental health of the kids in our community. As a father, I don't want the same bad thing happen again on my kids. This proposed shelter is not acceptable to me. Please understand the concerns of a father. I'm only fine with building townhouses for the screened low-income families at this location.

Thanks,
Jing Liu

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: strongly oppose building interim housing on Benton!!
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:15:15 PM

Dear Santa Clara Council members,

My name is Vera. I am a santa clara resident. I strongly oppose building interim housing on Benton
consider it's a no barrier, no screen homeless shelter. I attend today's meeting and 80% of community
residents oppose the project. 90% of people opposed from previous meeting and thousands signatures
are collected from people who oppose the project. What else you need to show you listen to the community
and residents?

Data from both San Jose and Milpitas similar project shows the crime rate increase dramatically after project
versus before project. Same storied are repeatedly happen again and again from big cities and small used to
be quite cities. Santa Clara is not special and will not be special in terms of crime rate increase if reckless decision
like this not getting prevented.

Even homeless people are scared of those with drug addicted, with criminal background and rather to stay in tent.
Who you really want to help here? Project like this won't end homeless for sure just like numerous project like that
because that's not the right way. They are creating more severe issue to the community rather than helping people.

Please be responsible to the residents and communities who used to support you, if not, people will learn
from those and will choose the right people who can represent them and do the right thing for community.

Thank you,
Vera

From: [redacted] Wang
To: [redacted]
Subject: strongly oppose the Benton project
Date: Friday, April 7, 2023 12:38:55 PM

Hello,

My name is Ray, and I am a concerned resident in the neighborhood. I strongly oppose the Benton project. I strongly believe that this project poses a serious safety risk for the children in our community. Despite what the county claims, data from a similar facility in Milpitas shows that police-involved incidents increased by 300% after the project was executed. We cannot allow this project to turn our community into a hotbed for crime.

From: [redacted] Luo
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strongly oppose to Benton project
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 11:43:34 AM

I am Fei Luo, a parent and resident in the neighborhood close to Benton & Lawrence intersection. I want to express my great concern and opposition about the Benton project. This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a potential safety risk to our children, and it is unacceptable that it would allow criminals, drug addicts, and sex offenders to stay. This was confirmed in all three community hearings that have been held so far. We need to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a magnet for crime.

Thanks for your patience to read my email and be aware of my deep concern about this project!

Best Regards,
Fei

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Support for Interim Housing Proposal
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 5:48:32 PM

Good evening,

I'm writing to share my support of the proposed LifeMoves interim housing program for unhoused people at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara County. Homelessness is a significant problem in Santa Clara, increasing 35% since 2019. You may recall the denial of a similar Project Homekey interim housing proposal on White Oak Lane, a devastating blow to the unhoused population and the City of Santa Clara. The need for additional interim housing is undeniable – the current resources for unhoused people are not robust enough to meet the ever-increasing need. As a resident of Santa Clara, I am in strong support of the proposal because I believe that housing is a basic human right, and by providing people with housing we will also be providing them with a sense of hope for their future.

I urge you to consider the incredible impact this resource could have on the City of Santa Clara, improving safety for the community, increasing resources for underserved community members, and restoring dignity to those who deserve it as much as you and I.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cassidy Kearins

Resident of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Support for Interim Housing Proposal
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:17:27 AM

Good morning,

I'm writing to share my support of the proposed LifeMoves interim housing program for unhoused people at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara County. Homelessness is a significant problem in Santa Clara, increasing 35% since 2019. You may recall the denial of a similar Project Homekey interim housing proposal on White Oak Lane, a devastating blow to the unhoused population and the City of Santa Clara. The need for additional interim housing is undeniable – the current resources for unhoused people are not robust enough to meet the ever-increasing need. As a resident of Santa Clara, I am in strong support of the proposal because I live here with my wife and 3 year old son, and we consistently witness the unhoused population struggling, living in and out of the nearby parks, and not getting the care and support they need to get back to a more normal life.

I urge you to consider the incredible impact this resource could have on the City of Santa Clara, improving safety for the community, increasing resources for underserved community members, and restoring dignity to those who deserve it as much as you and I.

Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully,

Dan Satran
Resident of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Support for Interim Housing Proposal
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:49:38 PM

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to share my support of the proposed LifeMoves interim housing program for unhoused people at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway in the city and county of Santa Clara. Homelessness is a significant problem in Santa Clara, increasing 35% since 2019. You may recall the denial of a similar Project Homekey interim housing proposal on White Oak Lane, a devastating blow to the unhoused population and the City of Santa Clara. The need for additional interim housing is undeniable – the current resources for unhoused people are not robust enough to meet the ever-increasing need.

As a resident of Santa Clara, I am in strong support of the proposal because it is a good first step in doing our part to help our neighbors and minimize homelessness. I moved to Santa Clara almost 10 years ago because I thought it was a community that took care of each other, did the right thing, and was a well-managed community that could make a difference in the lives of its constituents. The city council has already failed our neediest residents. Now is the time to correct that error. If the council votes no again, they will be setting the city up for another lawsuit which will be lost. This will cost the city in so many ways and we will still end up needing to build interim housing.

I urge you to consider the incredible impact this resource could have on the City of Santa Clara, improving safety for the community, increasing resources for underserved community members, and restoring dignity to those who deserve it as much as you and I.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Melinda Berlant
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Subject: Support for Interim Housing Proposal
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:51:35 PM

To those of you who are considering a decision on the proposed Interim Housing Project at Benton and Lawrence Expressway:

I strongly support this proposed Interim Housing Project. As a Santa Clara resident for more than 45 years, I feel that my City Council members with the help of the County Board of Supervisors should implement this project to provide a "hand up and not a handout" to unhoused people in our community.

This interim housing will give homeless people in Santa Clara the space to recover and get their lives together so they can work toward finding a permanent home and gain the skills they need to provide a livelihood for themselves. Shelters that allow the homeless people only to stay at night puts them out on the street during the day, not giving them the time, food, rest, resources, and security to make positive changes in their lives. Currently, there are homeless people in the neighborhood adjacent to the proposed interim housing who can be seen in the local parks or sleeping in their cars. If the interim housing is implemented, these same people can be housed and won't have to be on the streets in a needy condition.

One issue that makes this project difficult for the public to understand and accept is that it is described as a “low barrier,” meaning that some people, who have minor crimes, such as shoplifting or trespassing (for example, sleeping in a covered area in front of the entrance to a store) could be housed in this project. The "low barrier" description of this interim housing project is problematic because people tend to see it as "no barrier." The very aggressive opponents of this proposal assert that it will bring more people who are mentally unstable, drug addicts, criminals, and sex offenders to the nearby streets. As LifeMoves has described, I feel that they will carefully vet prospective residents because if they don't, their reputation as a non-profit will be seriously downgraded. It could put them out of business as a non-profit. I am impressed with LifeMoves' plans to have a cpde of conduct for the residents and to work with the surrounding community to get feedback on the residents. This "low barrier" category gives individuals who are generally excluded a chance for a decent life.

I believe that we who are more fortunate have a duty to support and extend compassion to those who are less fortunate, especially for a solution that will help those in need to become self-sufficient individuals who can contribute to society.

I have been shocked that Santa Clara residents and others who oppose this plan have adopted an ugly, aggressive mode of operation in the public meetings that shows no respect for civil discourse. They must believe that being loud, disruptive, insulting, and even threatening to vote out City Council members is the behavior that will cause the City Council and the Board of Supervisors to turn down the project. I hope that the City and County officials will make an informed decision based on what is best for the City and County and not be bullied by this very aggressive and raucous opposition group. Also, I hope that Santa Clara residents with cooler heads and fair minds will come out and support this project.

Ann Krause

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:
Subject: Support for option 1 over option 2
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:52:08 PM

Hi Adam,

Sorry for the double email, but I just wanted to respond to the two options for the interim housing project you presented this evening and voice my support for option 1 which includes more units of housing. More units in the site means more housing for those who need it and means more effective use of taxpayer money, as you pointed out in the cost estimates.

Thanks,
Asha DuMonthier

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Thoughts on the Benton & Lawrence shelter program
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 8:38:55 PM

Hi Adam,

We have been residents of Santa Clara for over 9 years. We live less than 200 feet from this proposed site.

Few days ago, I met a guy from Milpitas at Santa Clara Community Center, where our kids go to the same ballet class. Somehow we talked about the homeless project. He said the Milpitas homeless is a complete failure. So I asked why. He explained that that site has become a hotspot for drug dealers and criminals.

I can't help thinking that the Benton & Lawrence project could become the next Milpitas project. A disaster we can avoid now!

My kids need to pass this site everyday to go to school. Just imagine from my perspective, and put yourself in my position.

We need a solution that works for everyone. I believe such a solution exists, we need to think creatively and work smartly, maybe with a little bit more patience.

--
Best Regards.
Xufei Wang

You are very welcome to download our FoodSpot apps now available at both Android & iOS store. Your favorite dishes, discovered.

From: Pamela [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Unfair Style of Meeting
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:41:12 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Vote no for Benton project, of any types
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 8:27:56 PM

Dear mayor, councilmembers, county supervisors,

My name is Elisa, living in [redacted] Santa Clara for the past 6 years. I strongly oppose Homeless Shelter of any type to be built on the Benton location.

When we talk about "homeless" that cannot get housed in this area, we are not talking about law-abiding people who experienced a life-changing event and lost their house. Most of those people will have friends and family support, or will eventually move to places that are much affordable. The fact is, most of the homeless here are problematic individuals - drug addicts, people with behavior and mental issues, criminals who have been in and out of jail or who have not been punished due to law enforcement failure. Putting a large group of those bad and evil people at the center of residential homes and schools is irresponsible and reckless. Data from Milpitas, MTV, even our own Bella Vista have shown an increase in crime. There is no excuse for the consistent crime increase in multiple sites, and it will surely happen at Benton if city were to vote "yes" for the project.

Additionally, the neighborhood has raised concerns that the city and county chose this location due to the fact that the local residents are largely from minority populations. This is perceived as a discriminatory act, targeting Asian taxpayers and voters to sacrifice their safety and interests, and may have legal implications.

Voting no on Benton location will be a wise, responsible and intuitive decision.

There are many vacant lots in the business area of Santa Clara that could be used for shelter at similar or cheaper cost. It is inhumane, reckless, and against the spirit of democracy for the city and county to force the community lot to be taken away from local residents when they have many other options available and face 90% opposition from local residents.

Please read all the emails from the residents, watch all the four community meeting recordings, before you vote. I'm counting on you, and you will be held accountable if you vote against the majority.

Elisa

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: We Oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:15:39 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Ben Wo and family
Residents of Santa Clara

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 6:02:24 PM

Housing Manager Adam Marcus,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed. Note, the Milpitas facility is even not yet an interim housing but a permanent housing. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The truth is: City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.

Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Haiying Wu
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 6:04:01 PM

Housing Manager Adam Marcus,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

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Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Raymond Chi
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To:
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:13:33 PM

Housing Manager Adam Marcus,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed. Note, the Milpitas facility is even not yet an interim housing but a permanent housing. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The truth is: City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.

Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Fay Dustin
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:36:00 AM

My name is Carmen Ho, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.
County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

- Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
- Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves police call from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022)
- The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
- High operation cost as of 4.3M as an estimate for now
- Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
- Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
- County providing false and misleading info
- 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Thank you!

Carmen

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:34:45 AM

My name is Wen Tian , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.
County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

- Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
- Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves police call from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022)
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- Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
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- County providing false and misleading info
- 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Regards,

Wen

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose the proposed Benton development
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:47:25 AM

Hi All,

My name is Yi Wang and I have two kids. As a concerned citizen of Santa Clara, I strongly oppose the proposed Benton development. The location of this shelter is a major safety threat to the community, particularly the children in the area. With over 15 schools and over 10 thousands of students in close proximity, the potential risks are too high to ignore. I urge the City Council to reconsider and find an alternative non-residential location and do not put our children at risk.

Regards,

Yi

From: yang qing
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:53:33 AM

My name is Qing Yang, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton's shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location and vote no as our representative.

The county conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings, the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allows criminals and addicts, and problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police call increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
4. The high operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!
5. The critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery, and jobs
7. The county providing false and misleading info
8. 300+ community questions are unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Thanks
Qing Yang

From: Kelvin Le
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:55:19 AM

My name is Jiayong Le, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton's shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location and vote no as our representative.

The county conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings, the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.

2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police call increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)

3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood

4. The high operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!

5. The critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse

6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery, and jobs

7. The county providing false and misleading info

8. 300+ community questions are unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Thanks

Jiayong Le

From: le tang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:10:53 AM

Hi there,
this is Le Tang. As a concerned citizen of my beloved Santa Clara, **I strongly urge the City Council to reconsider the proposed Benton shelter location.** The potential safety threats to the community, particularly nearby schools and residents, are too great to ignore. With over 15 schools and over 10 thousands of students in close proximity, and research showing that crime rates increase by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, it is imperative that the City Council finds a safer location for the shelter. We cannot afford to take such risks with our community's safety and well-being.

Sincerely,
Le Tang

From: Ed Wang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter!!!
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:11:14 AM

My name is Ed Wang , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. **I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.**

County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
High operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!
Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
County providing false and misleading info
300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

Thank you

Ed

From: Wei Zhou
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:23:22 AM

My name is Wei Zhou, a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.

County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.

2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)

3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood

4. High operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!

5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse

6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs

7. County providing false and misleading info

8. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

--
Regards,
Wei

From: Rachel Zhang
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:49:55 AM

Hi,

My name is Shenqiu Zhang, resident of Santa Clara. **I strongly oppose Benton Shelter**. This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a potential safety risk to our children, and it is unacceptable. With over 15 schools and over 10 thousands of students in close proximity, the potential risks are too high to ignore. I urge the City Council to reconsider and find an alternative non-residential location and do not put our children at risk.

Thanks,
Shenqiu Zhang

From: Na Wang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:00:42 AM

To Whom it may concern,

This is Na Wang, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.

County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
High operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!
Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
County providing false and misleading info
300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Na

From: Xiaolan Yang
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:21:17 AM

Hi,

My name is Xiaolan Yang, a parent and resident in the neighborhood close to Benton & Lawrence intersection. **I want to express my great concern and opposition about the Benton project.** This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a potential safety risk to our children. It would allow criminals, drug addicts, and sex offenders to stay. This was confirmed in all three community hearings that have been held so far. We need to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a magnet for crime.

The county conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate was even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection:

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
4. High operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!
5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
7. County providing false and misleading info
8. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. Please vote No to this radical experiment as soon as possible.

Thanks very much for your help.

Best Regards,

Xiaolan

From: huang lin
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:36:42 AM

Hi,

My name is Lin Huang, a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.
County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.

2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)

3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood

4. High operation cost of $4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from $17M to $34.4M only one year after its approval!

5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse

6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs

7. County providing false and misleading info

8. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Thanks,

Lin

2023-04-06

From: Jiayi Wang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:38:08 AM

---

hi,

My name is Jiayi Wang, a concerned citizen of Santa Clara, I strongly oppose the proposed Benton development.

The location of this shelter is a major safety threat to the community, particularly the children in the area. I have 2 young kids BTW.

With over 15 schools and over 10 thousands of students in close proximity, the potential risks are too high to ignore. I urge the City Council to reconsider and find an alternative non-residential location and do not put our children at risk.

thanks.
Jiayi

From: Zhenzhen (Viola) Gao
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:44:00 AM

My name is Zhenzhen Gao, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.
County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
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Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
County providing false and misleading info
300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

From: Yi Wang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose the proposed Benton Development
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 9:51:42 AM

Hi officer,

This is Yu Liang. As a resident of the neighborhood near Benton & Lawrence, I am writing to you today to express my deep concern about the Benton project. I strongly oppose this radical idea. This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a serious safety risk for the children and families in our community. The county's claim that there are no safety concerns for children is not supported by evidence from a similar facility in Milpitas where police-involved incidents increased by 300% after the project was executed. We need to work together to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a high-crime area.

Regards,

Yu

From: Qiumao m
To: [redacted]
Subject: Say NO to Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:06:45 AM

My name is Qiumao Ma, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to stop considering this location, and vote no as our representative.

County conducted a live poll in the last community meeting and it showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher. There are 8 major reasons that the community opposes the Benton project and the location selection.

1. Low barrier housing allowing criminals and addicts, problematic occupants are unlikely to be removed from the site by the city or police.
2. Tremendous safety threat to 11,000 students and families. Milpitas and Mountain View with similar sites are seeing striking crime statistics (Milpitas total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022; MTV LifeMoves site police call has risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022!!)
3. The 2nd shelter in the same neighborhood
4. High operation cost of 4.3M as an estimate for now. Note that Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction cost estimate doubled from 17M to 34.4M only one year after its approval!
5. Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurse
6. Location selection is far from public transit, grocery and jobs
7. County providing false and misleading info
8. 300+ community's questions unanswered as to date.

This reckless project will certainly take police resources away from the rest of the community, and put all our lives in danger. It will also lead to significant debt for the city of Santa Clara. We need the city council to reject this radical experiment as soon as possible.

I'm counting on you.

Thanks,
Qiumao

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: S OPT e Be to /Law e ce Ho eess S ete P o ect
Date: Thursday April 6 2023 10:44:24 AM

- ***Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:***
-
-
- ***I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.***
  This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
  The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
  This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a serious safety risk for the children and families in our community. The county's claim that there are no safety concerns for children is not supported by evidence from a similar facility in Milpitas where police-involved incidents increased by 300% after the project was executed. We need to work together to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a high-crime area

  I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

  Regards,

  BP Huang household
  Residents of Santa Cara
-

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: STOP the homeless shelter at Benton and Lawrence!!
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 10:34:11 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.

The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of

the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.

The potential safety threats to the community, particularly nearby schools and residents, are too great to ignore. With over 15 schools and over 10 thousands of students in close proximity, and research showing that crime rates increase by 56% within 300 feet of a shelter, it is imperative that the City Council finds a safer location for the shelter. We cannot afford to take such risks with our community's safety and well-being.

I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

B. Wo and family
Residents of Santa Clara

From: Sophy Zhu
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strongly Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:40:33 AM

My name is Sophy Zhu, a parent and resident in the neighborhood close to Benton & Lawrence intersection.

I want to express my great concern and opposition about the Benton project. This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a potential safety risk to our children, and it is unacceptable that it would allow criminals, drug addicts, and sex offenders to stay. This was confirmed in all three community hearings that have been held so far. We need to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a magnet for crime.

Again, I oppose the Benton Shelter!

From: [redacted]
To: Mayor and Council; Consuelo[redacted]
Subject: We Need to STOP the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway. STOP! STOP! STOP!
Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023 11:06:38 AM

I strongly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway.

I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

I agree that we need to address the homeless issues; and homeless people need our compassion and a helping hand. But putting a homeless shelter in the middle of our dense residential communities is NOT the solution.

We can not sacrifice thousands of families and their children by putting homeless shelters right in the middle of our communities. Our family has two beautiful kids attending one of the school near the proposed homeless site. Thousands of children attend the many K to 12 schools in area within 1/2 mile of the proposed homeless shelter. It is a Horrible mistake to even consider this location for homeless shelter. We need to do more extensive studies to come up with a Win Win solution for ALL.

Please vote NO on the homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

BB Huang
Proud Resident of Santa Clara

From: Sonia Singhal
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Saturday, March 25, 2023 8:52:21 AM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?
2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).
3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get

housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:

- How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
- How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
- How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
- How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
   - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
   - **Only US citizens**
   - Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
   - Put Families first
   - Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
   - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
   - Occupants shouldn’t be in violation of Megan’s law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children’s parks.

- Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

We already have Bella Vista Inn right next to this area opened up. Why are we not distributing the homeless shelters across other areas of the county ? We have cities around here which have none.

Alternative plan for Benton - What the City really needs to prevent families from going jobless & homless

1) A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.
2) Also, we should consider the lack of child care centers in our area. Appleseed School closed down because the SCUSD reclaimed their property. It used to cater to ~200 children from infant to preschool age. We should consider this property for building a day care center for the growing working class families in this region.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Sonia Singhal,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Property Manager
To: Kevin Park; Mayor and Council
Subject: opposing the interim housing on the vacant lot between Lawrence and Benton
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2023 11:14:00 PM

Hello Mayor Lisa & Council Member Kevin
I am resident of district 4 of the city of Santa Clara. I would like to express my concern of the proposal of Interim Housing on between Lawrence and Benton for the following reasons :
1) The lot itself has been used for pumpkin patches and the Christmas tree lots which bring a lot of beautiful memories for our residents.
2) The site is too close to the elementary schools on Pomeroy.
3) The site is too close to Earl Carmichael Park. There are a lot of residents nearby. If the Interim housing opens, many homeless people may take over the park and disturb residents nearby.
4) There are a few homeless between El Camino and Kiely. They walk on the streets and sometimes they look confused too and walk mindlessly to the intersection. To avoid any accidents, I drive very carefully each time on El Camino or Kiely when I see any homeless people walking along El Camino or Kiely. Lawrence is a busy expressway and drivers drive at high speed on Lawrence Express. I am worrying that accidents may happen to both drivers and the homeless people if the homeless people walk along Lawrence express.
5) There are better options out there.Vacant office space is a quick option. The cost of building an interim housing from ground up is too costly. There is plenty of office space near Great America. those vacant offices - buildings are already there and modification of the interior will be less costly and the project may be ready sooner to provide service to homeless people.

I am NOT opposing the project but the location needs to be further away from residential. Somewhere by industrial or office area is a better choice.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,
Cindy
Resident of Santa Clara

From:	No Homekey in Birdland Benton
Subject:	NO INTERIM HOUSING AT BENTON & LAWRENCE
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 7:29:31 PM

Affordable housing for a reasonable number of residents: MAYBE.

Permanent, Interim Housing for an unlimited, unscreened, endless supply of homeless individuals from anywhere in the city, county, state, country or abroad: NO!

We do not approve of the proposal to build low barrier interim housing for homeless adults at Lawrence and Benton or in or adjacent to other residential neighborhoods in Santa Clara and Sunnyvale.

The proposed permanent encampment facility at Benton and Lawrence will intentionally and knowingly put our families in danger, increase crime, reduce the enjoyment of our community, and no doubt increase the cost of insurance while driving down our home values. You should have warned every homeowner of your intentions for that property prior to their home purchase, not after banks have approved their mortgages. This proposed action appears to mislead major mortgage lenders as well as several thousand middle class homeowners. Unless you plan to buy out and compensate every homeowner at market rate, we recommend you significantly revise your proposal.

We did not create the homelessness problem and we will not accept the burden for the rest of the county.

Thank you for representing your constituents.

From: Bing Tai
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:03:45 PM

Dear Mr. Hernandez,

My name is Bing Tai and I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thanks,
Bing

From: Fan Chen
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 1:33:42 PM

Hello All,

As a taxpayer of Santa Clara County, I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Fan

From: Yiming Xu
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 2:00:51 PM

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment regarding the recent public hearing (March 9th) on the Benton project, specifically the use of invited supporters who were portrayed as local community members. It is unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak and disguised themselves as local neighbors. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion, clearly violating the principles of law and democracy.

During the March 9th meeting, at least five speakers were from housing advocate organizations, who did not reside in the Benton neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen college students to support and speak for the project, none of whom were from the Benton neighborhood. Such behavior is not conducive to fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, and I have zero tolerance for it.

Therefore, for the upcoming March 22nd meeting, I strongly urge the city and county to make changes to ensure fair and transparent community outreach meetings regarding the Benton project. Specifically, I request that the meeting be held in person or that a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood be added to host the virtual meeting with Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. The co-host should have the same meeting permission and control, and the meeting should be hosted from the same physical location, such as Ms. Hernandez's office. Additionally, live comments and participant lists should always be visible to everyone. These measures are essential to ensure that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

In conclusion, the city and county should take this matter seriously and make the necessary changes to ensure fair and transparent community outreach meetings regarding the Benton project. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

From:	Zheyu Wu
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 7:23:02 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that 1) a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a co-host alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. 2) The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. 3) Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From:	VW H
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:12:54 PM

Mr. Hernandez,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Best Regards,
- Yin Wei

Address: [redacted]

From:	Sizhuo Zhang
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:20:55 PM

As a resident of Benton neighborhood, I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Sizhuo Zhang
[redacted]

From:	Victoria Gu
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Sunday, March 19, 2023 11:16:21 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Best,
Victoria

From: Haiying Wu
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 6:02:29 PM

General office Santa Clara,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed. Note, the Milpitas facility is even not yet an interim housing but a permanent housing. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The truth is: City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.

Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Haiying Wu
[redacted]

From: Raymond Chi
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 6:04:06 PM

General office Santa Clara,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed. Note, the Milpitas facility is even not yet an interim housing but a permanent housing. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The truth is: City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.

Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Raymond Chi
[redacted]

From: Connie Leung
To: [redacted]; Adam Marcus
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [Please Read] Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 11:21:18 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California. I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a "low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.

1. Safety & Security (of residents): The residents, including **me and my family (daughters 7 and 1), feel unsafe** and are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on the KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.

- What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
- If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?
- **There are 15 schools within a 1.5 mile radius to this proposed location - has this been considered at all?** My consult with a registered Social Worker also expressed concerns on this proposal.

2. Safety & Security (of clients): The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially
get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:

- **Why are we placing these clients across from a liquor store and 7-11 when we know a good percentage of them suffer from past alcohol abuse?**
- How do we protect the clients from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
- Why does this location NOT offer any nearby public transport or commercial working opportunities?

3. Budget: Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)? How will the city fund all the increased incidents anticipated from this project and where will the clients go after their 6 months

maximum stay?

4. Screening: The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-

- Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
- Put Families first
- Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
- People who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT
- allowed
- Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks
- Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here. **I'd request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society.** With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Connie Chou, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Denisse Locascio
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Subject: Project on Benton and Lawrence
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 2:58:16 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Regards
Denisse Tostado
[redacted]

From:	C L
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Friday, March 17, 2023 7:26:39 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Cong Liu

From:	Anna Tan
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Saturday, March 18, 2023 7:49:07 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

HUIYUAN Tan

From: Vipul Shah
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 11:55:00 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thanks,
Vipul

From: Xinrong Yang
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 8:08:23 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: Vidushi Gupta
To: Consuelo [redacted] Adam Marcus
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 3:54:30 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute
towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.
I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far
as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a "low entry barrier interim housing for singles and
couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.
1. Safety & Security (of residents): The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
○ What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
○ If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. Property Value: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. Safety & Security (of clients): The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of
any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients.

Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
○ How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection
which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
○ How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?

○ How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit
the parks/streets?
○ How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. Budget:
○ Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. Screening: The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even
if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the
following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
○ Only US citizens
○ Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
○ Put Families first
○ Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
○ Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
○ Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
○ Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)
Alternative plan for Benton
A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers,
healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work
hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.
I'd request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area and providing amenities and
support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society.
With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through
rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once
an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to
assist further.
I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Vidushi Gupta, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Fay Dustin
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Wrong location! Cease considering Benton for interim housing
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 10:13:33 PM

General office Santa Clara,

Dear County Supervisor, Mayor and Councilmembers of Santa Clara and Sunnyvale,

As a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible, and vote opposition as our representative. The city and county need to find a non-residential land for the interim housing like this.

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this interim housing for "the more challenging elements of the population" (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. Students walk pass the site everyday. Family, seniors, couples with strollers walk by and across that traffic light every day. This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences. There are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed. Note, the Milpitas facility is even not yet an interim housing but a permanent housing. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The truth is: City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.

Furthermore, City and County have no plan for long-term management. Like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers - the same taxpayers that voted you into office. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also

consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word “shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well.

In summary, the public’s opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own affordable permanent housing project for teachers or first responders who work hard but cannot afford to live here. Again, we urge you to stop considering any types of interim housing at Benton, or in any dense residential areas.

Sincerely,

Fay Dustin
[redacted]
[redacted]

From: Shan-Ting Hsu
To: Consuelo[redacted]
Subject: Put an end to astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion. Either make the 3/22 meeting in-person or include a co-host from the neighborhood for the Zoom meeting
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:21:05 PM

I am deeply disappointed that individuals with vested interests in the Benton project were invited to speak at the March 9th public hearing disguised as local community members. While everyone is entitled to their own opinions, it is unacceptable to present the views of project advocates as those of genuine community members. At the meeting, several speakers were from housing advocate organizations who do not reside in the Benton neighborhood. Additionally, Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU, brought a group of college students to speak in favor of the project, none of whom were from the neighborhood. This tactic creates a false impression of public support for the project and undermines the democratic process. I have no tolerance for such behavior.

For the upcoming March 22nd meeting, I urge the city and county to either hold an in-person meeting or add a co-host from the Benton neighborhood to jointly host the virtual meeting with Ms. Consuelo Hernandez. Going forward, I request that the city and county refrain from presenting the views of incentivized participants as the opinions of the local residents in all future meetings.

To promote a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, I request the following: 1) a representative from the Benton neighborhood should join the virtual meeting as a co-host with Ms. Consuelo Hernandez, 2) the co-host should have equal meeting permissions and control and host the meeting from the same physical location as Ms. Hernandez's office, and 3) ensure that live comments and participant lists are always visible to all attendees. These steps are crucial to ensuring that community outreach meetings remain transparent and unbiased.

From:	Lumeow Hsox
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion, Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 6:01:07 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Luyao

[redacted]

From: Sandrine Bernard
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:03:05 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings.**

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that
1) a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz.
2) The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office.
3) Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Thank you for listening.
Sandrine

From:	Shan-Ting Hsu
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:12:07 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: Su Latt Win
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:12:39 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From:	Will C
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 8:13:22 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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--

Haoyu Chen

From: Rémy BERNARD
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 9:01:32 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Regards,
Rémy Bernard

From:	Leung Andy
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:57:26 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From:	Guilan Gao
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:58:38 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From:	Guilan Gao
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:59:01 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From:	Junyu Zheng
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:04:37 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Junyu Zheng
[redacted]

From: Hongliang Fei
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:04:46 PM

Hi County officials,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Resident of Santa Clara,

Hongliang

From: Hongliang Fei
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:06:39 PM

Hi there,

As a resident of Santa Clara, **I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.** Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Lee

From:	M Feng
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:27:25 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From:	vidya g
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:00:12 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.

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From:	Rui Liang
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:54:41 PM

Hello,

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--
Best Regards,

Rui Liang

From:	Ray Leon
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:55:37 PM

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From:	Rui Liang
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:56:20 PM

Hello,

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From:	Rui de Leon
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:56:54 PM

Hello,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: Wu Wen
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Subject: Benton project - Request for future public hearings
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:36:08 AM

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns on the Benton Project and the recent public hearings.

I am extremely disappointed that some supporters of the Benton project who do not live in the neighborhood were portrayed as members of the local community then asked to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Sincerely,
Wu Wen

From:	Chou Ethan
To:	onsuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Entire household[redacted]) strongly against Homekey project "Benton Street at Lawrence"
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:48:52 AM

To Consuelo and Santa Clara county:

Please stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom.

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the HomeKey project "Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Shelter" , portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for it and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance for such behavior.**

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Sincere,

Household and house owner of [redacted]

Ethan Chou
[redacted]

From: I S Gill
To: [redacted]
Subject: I oppose building another homeless shelter at Lawrence & Benton location .....
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:45:08 AM

Hi TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,
I oppose building another homeless shelter at **Lawrence & Benton location** because Homeless Shelter for residents can pose potential risks to the high-density residential areas and to users of parks,
kids in many daycares, schools and children's playgrounds in this area. AND I request that I vote NO on this project:
Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Service Enriched Shelter

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Thanks & Regards,
Bay Star Limo
[redacted]

*** If cancellation is made less than 24 hours we will charge 100% of original fees.**

Confidentiality Notice: *The information in this e-mail and any attachments thereto is intended for the named recipient(s) only. This e-mail, including any attachments, may contain information that is privileged and confidential and subject to legal restrictions and penalties regarding its unauthorized disclosure or other use. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action or inaction in reliance on the contents of this e-mail and any of its attachments is* ***STRICTLY PROHIBITED****. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender via return e-mail; delete this e-mail and all attachments from your e-mail system and your computer system and network; and destroy any paper copies you may have in your possession. Thank you for your cooperation.*

From: Agou Cheng
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton at Lawrence Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:44:51 PM

Dear Mayor Gilmor and Council Members,

My name is Yu-Chuan Chou and I am a resident of Santa Clara living on Benton St. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Benton shelter. I believe this is an inappropriate location for such a facility and it poses a safety risk for our children in the community. I urge you to reconsider this plan and vote against it as our elected representatives. The city and county should look for a non-residential land that is more suitable for this purpose.

I appreciate your attention and service to our community. Please take my concerns into account.

Sincerely,

Yu Chuan

From: Sheng Liu
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton shelter
Date: Friday, March 31, 2023 10:28:51 AM

Hello, my name is Sheng Liu, a parent and resident in the neighborhood close to Benton & Lawrence intersection. **I want to express my great concern and opposition about the Benton project.** This low barrier homeless housing initiative for male singles is a potential safety risk to our children, and it is unacceptable that it would allow criminals, drug addicts, and sex offenders to stay. This was confirmed in all three community hearings that have been held so far. We need to ensure the safety of our children and prevent our community from becoming a magnet for crime.
Sheng Liu

--

Sheng Liu
PhD
Senior research scientist
[redacted]

From: Bay One Limo Shaila
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Our neighborhood NEEDS you! Call to join the 3/22 zoom meeting
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:46:43 AM

Hi to whom it may concern,
I oppose building another homeless shelter at **Lawrence & Benton location** because Homeless Shelter for residents can pose potential risks to the high-density residential areas and to users of parks,
kids in many daycares, schools and children's playgrounds in this area. AND I request that I vote NO on this project:
Benton Street at Lawrence Expressway Service Enriched Shelter

Thank You
BAY ONE LIMO
[redacted]

We Love Referrals!

*** If cancellation is made less than 24 hours we will charge 100% of original fees.**

On Thu, Mar 16, 2023 at 10:57 AM NoHomekey SantaClaraSunnyvale [redacted] > wrote:

Follow our Twitter: https://twitter.com/safesantaclara
Subscribe to Youtube: https://youtube.com/@safescc
Our website: https://safescc.org

Dear Community member:

In the last in-person public hearing at Mission city church, many of our neighbors joined the meeting and expressed their opposition.

As you probably know, in the 3/1 meeting, only a few supporters showed up to support the Benton proposal. However, on 3/9, more supporters came. At least 5 of them admitted they work for a homeless housing advocate organization and do not live in the neighborhood. About a dozen supporters were college students from San Jose State University. They came with

Professor Ken Yeager, a former Santa Clara County Supervisor. The turnout created the illusion that more neighbors started supporting this HomeKey project. It showcases the government's campaign to skew the actual level of opposition from the people who actually work/live in the neighborhood. As a preventative measure, we plan to ask the city/county to add a co-host nominated by the neighborhood for the next virtual public hearing.

It is really a critical period for us and our community. Again, we need our voices heard! We need your emails, and your phone calls AS MANY AS POSSIBLE to say NO to officials. Let them know we care about our community and will try very hard to keep it safe. We also need more WET SIGNATURES!

Before the meeting on March 22nd, please spend 5 mins emailing and calling officials. You can do it multiple times with the same words!!

Please call

1. Consuelo: [redacted] (Office line)

2. Any or all of the numbers below:

image.png

Email:

Subject: **Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom**
To: [redacted]

BCC: [redacted]

Content:
I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: [redacted]
To: Mayor and Council; Adam Marcus
Subject: Re: We Oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:17:20 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Ben Wo and family
Residents of Santa Clara

From:	hardik darji
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:16:27 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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--
Hardikkumar Darji

From: Gurinder Dhillon
To: Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:31:36 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf.

THIS IS SLEAZY on so many levels although expected from politicians.

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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--
Gurinder Dhillon

From:	Yunqi Sun
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 12:18:28 PM

Hi Consuelo,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From:	Jeff Leon
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion, Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 1:05:31 PM

Hi,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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Sincerely,
Jeff Li

From:	Ray
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:50:17 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: Ling Huang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:25:47 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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From: Xuri Feng
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 4:28:39 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

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From: Safe Santa Clara
To: [redacted]
Subject: Benton project - Second Open Letter
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 12:24:34 PM

County Supervisors, Mayor Gilmore, Santa Clara Councilmembers:

This is the second open letter to Santa Clara County and City. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Benton development. We believe this development is a mistake that the city of Santa Clara should never make. We urge the City Council to halt the consideration of this site immediately.

We want to strongly express our indignation and concern regarding the practice of astroturfing before and in the third hearing held on March 9th. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community. This action to market false impressions of public support for the project sets up a plot to manipulate public opinion, a clear violation of the principles of law and democracy. **We have zero-tolerance towards such behavior. We strongly urge the city and county to not only stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents, but also to refrain from engaging in astroturfing in the future.** This is essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Additionally, we are extremely dismayed by the City and County's persistent dissemination of fake and false information, as well as the disregard for the community's concerns about safety. You cursorily dismissed Milpitas' crime statistics relating to shelter areas. You also consciously distanced yourselves from use of the word "shelter", carefully replacing it with "interim housing," as if the two terms carry appreciable differences. Also, when you presented the data from KQED of five shelters in San Jose with declined crime, you intentionally presented the total number but not the number for each site. Because if you look at the number of police calls for each site respectively, 3 out of 5 sites witnessed an increase in almost all types of police calls. Worse, the earlier the shelter opened, the larger increase in crime it showed. Also the KQED data missed a lot of types of crime, such as drug-related, suspicious activity, burglary/theft, mental health, disorders, violation and violence. These tactics, though understandably employed to pacify the public, were clearly intended to mislead them as well. Despite three hearings, we have seen no progress or initiatives in addressing our safety concerns, especially on crimes. The fact is that the City and County cannot ensure our safety in the face of a shortage of police resources. **We want to strongly remind you that what Milpitas is currently experiencing will be Santa Clara's problem in the future, and the damage to residential areas will only be greater. This is not speculation, but rather a very real and ongoing situation.**

Furthermore, like the rejected White Oak Lane project, the Benton project may receive initial funding from state/county but **the ultimate cost of long-term management, operation and any liability associated with the facility will eventually be borne by Santa Clara taxpayers -** the same taxpayers that voted you into office.

In summary, the public's opposition to this project is very vocal and strong. It is undoubtedly representative of the opinion of the fine citizens living here for years and decades. Addressing homelessness is a humanitarian and necessary effort. But all these years what we have always seen is your hand-waving and virtue-signaling, as embodied in your repeated, irresponsible choice of location for different homeless shelters, in your misplaced emphasis on housing alone without much regard for other priorities helping the homeless. In this matter, the public's patience and trust in you is, frankly, very thin. We urge you to heed the loud and clear message, to act on your good conscience, and to genuinely involve the community rather than just treating us as mere formality. If you put your political career ahead of the interest of the Santa Clara residents whom you presumably represent, then fight we will. We are determined to take all means necessary, including but not limited to legal action, to safeguard the place we call home, for ourselves but perhaps more importantly, for our children.

Regards,
Safe Santa Clara County



From: Cecil Mossotti
To: Mayor and Council; Consuelo Hernandez; Adam Marcus
Subject: Benton-Lawrence Homeless Project
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:44:18 PM

March 20, 2023

All,

This is a follow-up to my March 8 email and to my comments at the March 9 meeting as I will be unable to participate in the March 22 virtual meeting.

Again, I am a retiree who owns and lives in the Monaco Condominiums located directly across the street from the proposed interim housing. Already we have homeless with serious mental and/or drug issues around our complex as well as at the 7/11 store and gas station that are next to us. This includes those living in their cars parked on the curbs by us who refuse to stay in the motels provided to them.

Having interim housing across the street for the homeless described above only increases the numbers since they will continue to 'hang out' at the places I mentioned.

I seriously doubt those of you making the decision would want to have such housing by your home. Therefore, why can't the funding be used for the homeless who have jobs but must live in motels, tents, shelters. Or perhaps a pre-school facility for low income families or those who are homeless with children.

Yes, those unfortunate to be homeless need help and a clean warm place to reside. However, the individuals who you plan to house at the Benton-Lawrence interim facility will require years of assistance and care, not months, due to their drug addiction or mental illness. Please consider an area away from neighborhoods for such a facility. Consider instead a facility for those I mentioned above or something similar.

Ms Cecil May Mossotti
[redacted]

From: Shaun Shroff
To: Consuelo [redacted]; Adam Marcus
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 9:50:56 AM

Dear Ms. Consuelo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
    - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
    - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
    - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations

once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-

- **Only US citizens**
- Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
- Put Families first
- Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
- Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
- Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
- Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Shaun Shroff, Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Monica Bansal
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:03:21 AM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
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    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
    - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
    - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

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    - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
    - **Only US citizens**
    - Exclude Criminals and Drug Addicts
    - Put Families first
    - Only Santa Clara city residents are considered
    - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
    - Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
    - Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like affordable housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Monica Bansal, J.D. Parent and Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Pushpanjali S
To: Consuelo [redacted]; Adam Marcus
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Community Feedback - Still a "No" to a Low Entry Barrier Homeless Shelter at Lawrence/Benton
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:06:49 PM

Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still think that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are **not at all satisfied by the data presented** in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seemed to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value:**The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. **The impact assessment should be based on market data**. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
    - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
    - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
    - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening:** The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
    - **Only US citizens**
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    - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
    - Occupants shouldn't be in violation of Megan's law, especially given the vicinity to multiple schools, residences, and children's parks.
    - Add background checks (for anyone considered to be housed in a residential neighborhood)

Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd **request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area** and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Regards,
Pushpanjali S,
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: Benny Fong
To: Mayor and Council; Adam Marcus
Subject: DO NOT build any homeless shelter at Lawrence and Benton
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 9:07:58 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

We strongly OPPOSE to any homeless shelter at Lawrence and Benton.

I am all for helping the homeless, and solving the homeless issue. But the County needs to do more studying and come up with a Win Win proposal. Just because there is an empty lot in our neighborhood Does Not mean the county's next project should be built here. You don't need a PhD to know this location is absolutely WRONG for any homeless shelter.

We have been living in this area for the past 15 years. Our two kids attend the elementary school that is half a mile from the proposed site. I'm FURIOUS that the county is proposing this location for homeless shelter, right in the middle of our residential community, where hundreds of children live and attend the many schools in the neighborhood, all within an one mile radius.

What this proposal to build a homeless shelter in our residential community is basically to turn our beautiful neighborhood into a shit hole. We CAN NOT let this happen.

Please don't sacrifice our children.

NO homeless shelter at Lawrence and Benton.

Regards,

Ben W. and family
Resident of Santa Clara

From: Natalia Bondarenko
To: Adam Marcus
Subject: STRONGLY OPPOSE the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:57:43 AM

I strongly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway. It is close to my school and park and I am concirned about safety of my children.

From: Jean
To: [redacted]
Subject: Lawrence and Benton Interim Shelter Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:22:47 PM
Attachments: image.png

Greetings,

Thank you all for the meeting this evening.

I want to express my appreciation for some of the points that your team has clearly heard from the community:

- Thank you for hearing our concerns regarding the density, especially with Bella Vista Inn being only 0.5mi away. Your Option 2 design takes into better consideration the houses that you will be right up against, shoulder-to-shoulder, and the fact this neighborhood will already be absorbing the impacts of Bella Vista Inn.
- Thank you for hearing that this area is better suited for children, as is obvious by the quantity of schools and parents that reside in this area, and re-designing the site to accommodate 25% that are families.
- Thank you for explaining that there will be rules and that illegal activity will not be allowed on the premise. (We hope illegal activity does not then just get pushed out off-premise into the parks and neighborhood.)
- Thank you for hearing our concern about there being only 0.5mi distance to Bella Vista Inn and considering the bike shop site as an alternative.

I feel there are some points that perhaps you were not made aware of:

- This is a very residential neighborhood and is not suitable for an interim shelter where its longevity and continued proper management is unknown. Residents live decades in a neighborhood and will likely outlive your career(s) managing this site. Longevity (continued funding) of this site needs to be addressed, if you ultimately choose to place this in a neighborhood.
- Mr. Consuelo mentioned that there are families at local schools who would benefit from this shelter. We already have the nearby Bella Vista Inn which should solve this issue for them.
- Where do the unhoused go, if they time-out or get removed from this site? We know that unhoused peoples will be brought in from all over the County. Does this neighborhood then become their new encampment?
- Addressing the fact that you are placing 2 shelters in what is known as Koreatown, where minorities, especially Asians, are more frequently targeted than Caucasians due to scapegoating by the past administration as well as both the Democratic and Republican parties. I am not surprised that this community feels a heightened sense of fear. There is no Asian representation in your staff at Lifemoves. I would like to hear how Lifemoves would address this issue, including offering anti-bias and culturally diverse training to your clients, in order to potentially be good neighbors, especially in the Koreatown area.
- I noticed that your presentation was very one-sided. You offered testimonials of your clients, but there were no testimonials of homeowner residents from around your other shelters. I also noticed most of your other shelters are not immediately adjacent to homes and residences, but this one will be. I would like to see this addressed.
- If you are choosing this location, I would like to see Lifemoves acknowledge and address

that in the United States of America, homes are the only safety net that citizens have. Homes are the only thing that Americans can sell to fund their retirement, healthcare costs, mortgage to pay for their child's education, to relocate and more. Ours is a country without universal healthcare, abysmal social security, no universal higher education and no safety net. By putting a second site directly into one neighborhood, Lifemoves needs to acknowledge that you are impacting the only safety net a citizen has in this country, which is their home, and it is heavily dependent on density, barrier of entry and management at such a location.
- I would also like to see Lifemoves address the issue of removing 24/7 security at your Palo Alto location:

image.png



https://padailypost.com/2023/03/20/price-of-proposed-homeless-shelter-goes-up-again/

Though I am heartened that Lifemoves has heard some of our concerns, I still feel that this site is not a suitable site due to the issues I list above.

Thank you for your time and I would like a response to the issues I brought up above.

Sincerely,

Jean L

From: Tina Liu
To: Consuelo [redacted]; Adam Marcus
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 1:55:19 PM

Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,

I am writing this email as a citizen who cares about the safety of the neighborhood as well as contribute towards solving the homelessness crisis, especially in California.

I believe that there are several questions that haven't been satisfactorily addressed in the meetings so far as well as in the FAQ updates, and I still feel that a **"low entry barrier interim housing for singles and couples" is not the right fit for this particular location.**

1. **Safety & Security (of residents)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #3 on 3/9 based on this KQED article. Upon closer inspection, none of the 5 sites referenced seemed to be singles and couples only and none seems to be close to such a dense residential area as Lawrence/Benton. Moreover, if we try to look at the worst case scenario amongst these 5, Mabury Road site had more than 30% increase in police quality-of-life calls year-over-year. Similarly, the residents of this neighborhood found out that the report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in August 2022 showed 300% increase in such crime rate in less than 2 years.
    - What is the guarantee that this site would not go in the direction of Milpitas or Mabury for safety and security?
    - If a decision is forced on us, and we see a spike in crime rate, who is liable?

2. **Property Value**:The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by the data presented in meeting #2 on 3/1 where the county used assessed values to assert that low-income-housing doesn't adversely impact nearby housing values. The impact assessment should be based on market data. Moreover, the comparison should be done for similar interim housing (one that's proposed for Lawrence/Benton) in a similar neighborhood (similarity in number of schools, proximity to residences).

3. **Safety & Security (of clients)**: The residents, including me, are not at all satisfied by a lack of any acknowledgement by the county that the site has some inherent dangers for its clients. Understanding that some of the clients may not yet have been rehabilitated, when they initially get housing here, there were several open questions around their safety or impact to safety of others due to them:
    - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
    - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?

- How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?
- How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?

4. **Budget**:
    - Santa Clara city is already in a **deficit**. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

5. **Screening**: The residents, including me, are not very clear on the screening requirements. Even if the project gets approved despite our opposition to low entry barrier shelter, we insist that the following points are incorporated for any such housing near schools and residences in Santa Clara:-
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Alternative plan for Benton

A majority of residents would like supportive housing, preferably a rent-to-own housing project for teachers, healthcare workers, service workers (like cleaning services, restaurant workers etc.) and retail workers who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here.

I'd request moving the proposed low-barrier shelter to a less residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals and get them on a path to becoming a productive member of society. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation, training and relocation by also addressing additional underlying issues that go beyond housing. Once an individual is ready to contribute to the society, housing projects in dense neighborhoods could be leveraged to assist further.

I hope that we can work together in keeping our cities and neighborhoods safe as well as tackling homelessness.

Tina Liu
Resident from Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:03:52 PM

My name is Chris Zhang , a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative.
City and county need to find non-residential land for the facility like this.
I'm counting on you.

From: Huasha Zhao
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:05:27 PM

My name is Jimmy Matson, a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find non-residential land for the facility like this.
I'm counting on you.

From:	Yuanyuan Zhang
To:	Mayor and Council
Cc:	[redacted]
Subject:	Oppose Benton shelter
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 10:19:58 PM

Hello,

My name is Yuanyuan Zhang, a resident of Santa Clara. I strongly **oppose** Benton shelter. I have a strong belief that this project presents a significant safety hazard for the children in our community. Despite the county's assertions, data from a comparable facility in Milpitas reveals that police-involved incidents rose by 300% after the project's implementation. It is not acceptable for this project to transform our community into a breeding ground for crime.

Please vote **NO**. I'm counting on you.

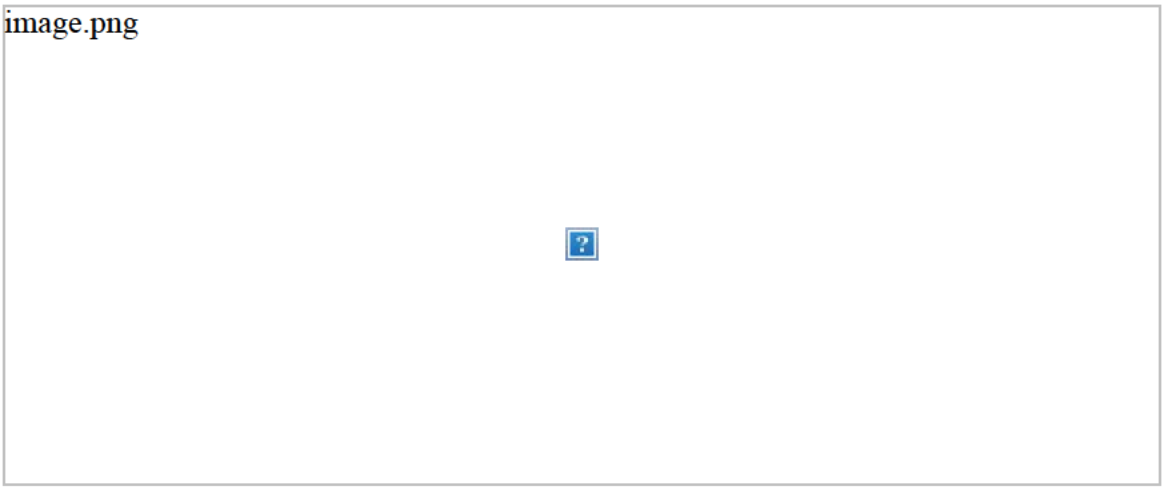
Thanks!

Sincerely,
Yuanyuan

From: Jean
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Lawrence and Benton Interim Shelter Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:38:22 PM
Attachments: image.png
image.png

Oh yes, I would also like Lifemoves to address why the cost for the Palo Alto location increased again and again.

image.png



Thank you again,

Jean L

On Wed, Mar 22, 2023 at 9:22 PM Jean [redacted] wrote:

> Greetings,
>
> Thank you all for the meeting this evening.
>
> I want to express my appreciation for some of the points that your team has clearly heard from the community:
>
> - Thank you for hearing our concerns regarding the density, especially with Bella Vista Inn being only 0.5mi away. Your Option 2 design takes into better consideration the houses that you will be right up against, shoulder-to-shoulder, and the fact this neighborhood will already be absorbing the impacts of Bella Vista Inn.
> - Thank you for hearing that this area is better suited for children, as is obvious by the quantity of schools and parents that reside in this area, and re-designing the site to accommodate 25% that are families.
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> - Thank you for hearing our concern about there being only 0.5mi distance to Bella Vista Inn and considering the bike shop site as an alternative.
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> I feel there are some points that perhaps you were not made aware of:

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- Where do the unhoused go, if they time-out or get removed from this site? We know that unhoused peoples will be brought in from all over the County. Does this neighborhood then become their new encampment?
- Addressing the fact that you are placing 2 shelters in what is known as Koreatown, where minorities, especially Asians, are more frequently targeted than Caucasians due to scapegoating by the past administration as well as both the Democratic and Republican parties. I am not surprised that this community feels a heightened sense of fear. There is no Asian representation in your staff at Lifemoves. I would like to hear how Lifemoves would address this issue, including offering anti-bias and culturally diverse training to your clients, in order to potentially be good neighbors, especially in the Koreatown area.
- I noticed that your presentation was very one-sided. You offered testimonials of your clients, but there were no testimonials of homeowner residents from around your other shelters. I also noticed most of your other shelters are not immediately adjacent to homes and residences, but this one will be. I would like to see this addressed.
- If you are choosing this location, I would like to see Lifemoves acknowledge and address that in the United States of America, homes are the only safety net that citizens have. Homes are the only thing that Americans can sell to fund their retirement, healthcare costs, mortgage to pay for their child's education, to relocate and more. Ours is a country without universal healthcare, abysmal social security, no universal higher education and no safety net. By putting a second site directly into one neighborhood, Lifemoves needs to acknowledge that you are impacting the only safety net a citizen has in this country, which is their home, and it is heavily dependent on density, barrier of entry and management at such a location.
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image.png



https://padailypost.com/2023/03/20/price-of-proposed-homeless-shelter-goes-up-again/

Though I am heartened that Lifemoves has heard some of our concerns, I still feel that this site is not a suitable site due to the issues I list above.

Thank you for your time and I would like a response to the issues I brought up above.

Sincerely,

Jean L

From: Ashish Verma
To: Adam Marcus; Consuelo [redacted]
Cc: Mayor and Council; [redacted]
Subject: Re: Lawrence/Benton: Some unanswered questions or open items that could be covered in FAQ or upcoming Zoom Call on 3/22
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:45:56 AM

Hi Mr. Adam and Ms. Consuelo,

I recently heard from several folks that there could be a correlation to the increase in the number of homeless people in Santa Clara county with the release of prisoners during peak Covid times. I haven't been able to look into this myself from a data perspective. Granted,that doesn't change anything regarding the total number of homeless folks that need housing, it actually makes the concern around safety and security even more grave (if that assumption is valid). Would it be possible for you to cover this in the next session on 3/22?

A number of people that I have personally talked with, supported the solution of getting rehabilitation from substance abuse first, before getting such folks in close proximity to kids and residents. Please understand that if it were a fail safe screened process where families with jobs in the area on the verge of being homeless (eviction etc.) could be provided a relief and prevented from going down that cycle, you'd have seen an embracing community. I hope that we find a path in which we all could come together, not just for this project but for overall solution.

Thanks,
Ashish

On Fri, Mar 17, 2023 at 8:17 AM Ashish Verma <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Mr. Adam and Ms. Consuelo,
>
> There were a couple of topics that got debated quite a bit in the last few days. These were:
>
> 1. **US Citizenship**
>   - Most of the folks who brought it up wanted a verification that only US Citizens get assistance in such interim housing/shelter.
>   - Any illegal or undocumented folks are routed to the facilities that can either get them to a path of citizenship or take corrective actions.
> 2. **Exclusion criteria**
>   - So far, the residents have only seen the "inclusion" criteria like proximity to VTA, grocery, hospitals etc. They wanted to know which exclusion factors are currently being considered.
>   - If none, it would be a good idea to determine exclusion criterias for different types of locations. For example:
>   - Families with kids - exclude locations that are far removed (define in miles/meters) from a public school
>   - Seniors (define in years) - exclude locations that are far removed (define in miles/meters) from a hospital
>   - Adults with drug affliction - exclude locations that are close (define in miles/meters) to schools and dense (define density) residential population
>
> My last few weeks of digging in this complex problem have allowed me to have an even better appreciation of the complexity associated with tackling homelessness. After the Lawrence/Benton site location matter settles (hopefully amicably), I'd love to partner with you if I can help achieve good outcomes for both the residents as well as the county. Some initial thoughts:
>
> - **Shelter by category:** The inclusion AND exclusion criterias would help us widen our search for land/location fit for different categories
> - **Rehabilitation:** The inclusion AND exclusion criterias would help us provide rehabilitation services appropriate for different categories through a focussed approach. We can partner with certain NGOs for this.
> - **(Vocational) Training:** Once rehabilitated, and ready for being productive citizens, our clients

could be provided training to sharpen their skills or learn new skills that can help them get a job. We can partner with certain NGOs for this.
- **Job Search Assistance:** Once trained, and ready for taking on a job, our clients could be provided assistance to get a job. We can partner with certain NGOs for this.
- **Interim Housing Assistance:** Once on a job, our clients could be provided assistance to get interim housing closer to their work location (example - rent to own program).

Thanks for listening to the feedback from the community and your readiness to make adjustments that are a better fit. I hope you are able to present the facts associated with these questions that help our council members in taking decisions that achieve good outcomes for both the homekey initiative as well as the residents.

Regards,
Ashish

On Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 5:28 PM Adam Marcus <[redacted]> wrote:

> Thank you Ashish for highlighting these questions. We are working to address these concerns and intend to share responses at the meeting next week.
>
> Adam Marcus (he/him)
>
> City of Santa Clara
> Housing & Community Services Division
> [redacted]
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Ashish Verma [redacted]>
> **Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 12:35 PM
> **To:** [redacted] Adam Marcus [redacted]>
> **Cc:** Mayor and Council [redacted]>;
> [redacted]
> **Subject:** Lawrence/Benton: Some unanswered questions or open items that could be covered in FAQ or upcoming Zoom Call on 3/22
>
> Dear Ms. Consuleo and Mr. Adam,
>
> Some of the residents worked together to compile a list of questions that either haven't yet been addressed in FAQ/Slides so far or the response hasn't completely addressed those concerns.
> I am bringing these to your attention so that you can help frame answers to these and hopefully get us all to a constructive conclusion that's beneficial for all.
>
> Please let me know if you'd like to discuss any of these prior to the call or need more information.
>
> ---
>
> 1. **Crime & Property Statistics**
>
>   - **Crime statistics** around such interim housing projects before and after - proving that it is not a safety concern (say a combination of multiple similar sites' data)

Impact on property prices based on **market** data (not assessed value) - proving that home values won't decrease (Usually #1 has a correlation with #2)
- **Impact on gentrification** - proving that such a project would not repel future residents (Usually #2 is a leading indicator of #3 - if prices hold or increase it implies desirability of the neighborhood hasn't decreased)

Response on FAQ (It doesn't match with searches done by the residents or anecdotal evidences)



2. **Screening:** We need more clarity on the screening and prioritization: Some top areas could be
   - Families get preference (most important to preempt families from going down this path)
   - Santa Clara city residents get preference or the project remains exclusive for Santa Clara city residents initially
   - Violent crimes, arson, sex offenders are NOT allowed
   - Folks who should be institutionalized (posing threat to themselves or others) are NOT allowed
   - Undocumented immigrants are NOT allowed

Response on FAQ (residents not satisfied by the response):



3. **Safety & Security (due to the drug afflicted folks who may not yet have been rehabilitated walking around the neighborhoods)**
   - How do we protect the "clients" from traffic impacts - such as Lawrence/Lillick intersection which has a high rate of accidents and comes in the walking path to the bus stop at El Camino?
   - How do we protect the residents, especially teenage kids learning to drive from accidentally hitting such folks who may surprise them on expressway or neighborhood streets?
   - How do we prevent the influx of drugs in this neighborhood due to such a project?
   - How do we protect the students from having a run-in with such folks on their way to school, back from school, playing in the parks - when such "clients" walk around or visit the parks/streets?

Related response on FAQ that doesn't seem to answer the questions from above (the link doesn't seem to work as well):







4. **Budget**:
   - Santa Clara city is already in a deficit. How would the city maintain the operations once the homekey funding runs out (after 3 years)?

No response yet

5. **Throughput**
   - What's the overall throughput of clients across different lifemoves centers going by 120/240/360 days (giving a better understanding of where every client landed after getting a service in **such an interim shelter**)

No Response yet on FAQ (Residents would like to see the data that's based on interim shelters **similar** to the ones proposed for this site)

6. **Kitchen**
   - We would need kitchens especially for family based units

Not yet covered on FAQ (residents who would like families to be prioritized would like proper kitchens for families so that if it becomes permanent housing later on, it remains functional):

7. **Smoking Area**
   - Would the facility have its own smoking area so that the "clients" do not congregate on the streets for smoking?

Not yet covered on FAQ

8. **Quality of Life:**
   - How would the project respect the privacy of residents due to its height?
   - What would be the responsibility of LifeMoves or site managers in keeping the surroundings clean (free of litter etc. from its clients)?

Note yet covered on FAQ

Regards,

Ashish

From:	Sharilyn Yao
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 4:53:50 PM

Hi,

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Best,
Sharilyn

From:	Zhe Liu
To:	Consuelo [redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:14:03 PM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

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Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From: Natalia Bondarenko
To: Adam Marcus
Subject: STRONGLY OPPOSE the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:57:43 AM

I strongly oppose the low-barrier shelter project at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway. It is close to my school and park and I am concirned about safety of my children.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: A mom and santa clara resident strongly oppose to the homeless project at Benton/Lawrence location
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:05:32 AM

I'm a mom living in Santa Clara, my daughter is 2 years old, she will also go to the preschools around Benton street area, it's called stratford preschool, she will play in the area before and after school. I strongly oppose the shelter plan at Benton and Lawrence, for my daughter, for my family, for my neighbors. it would be a big threat for young kids, for the whole community, please hear our voice and take care the community members.
if you are a parent, for sure you want a safe environment for your kid to grow up. Are you a parent or a future parent? Please help protect the kids, they are the country's future, thanks.

--

Best regards,
Dan Zhao

From: Safe Santa Clara
To: [redacted]
Subject: Benton Shelter - First Open Letter
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:26:04 PM

Mayor Gilmore, Santa Clara Councilmembers, County Supervisors:

Safe Santa Clara County is a grassroots association of residents from across Santa Clara. Our aim is to promote livable cities and neighborhoods which work for all of our residents.

Members of our association strongly oppose the radical and experimental Benton development. We believe this development is wrong for Santa Clara, wrong for the Benton location specifically, and also wrong for its intended patrons. **We urge the City Council to cease consideration of this location as soon as possible.**

The proposed location poses a significant safety threat to nearby schools. It is located at the center of more than 15 schools serving 10,483 students. We are deeply concerned about the decision to create this shelter for "*the more challenging elements of the population"* (B. Greenberg of LifeMoves, in the 2nd hearing) in such close proximity to thousands of vulnerable and innocent children. **This decision poses an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of the children and can lead to devastating consequences.** We believe that there are other locations in Santa Clara where no schools are within a 20-minute walk and should be considered instead.

The proposed location also poses a tremendous safety threat to nearby residents, with the closest one being less than 20 ft away. Research shows that crime increases by 56% within 300 ft of a shelter, and the negative effects are concentrated within 0.35 miles. For this proposed location, there are more than 2,000 residential homes, which means approximately 6,000 residents within 0.35 miles. **The Report on Project HomeKey shared in Milpitas council meeting in 2022 showed that police-involved incidents have increased 300% compared to before the project was executed**. The contrast is terrifying. The level of crime rate at the facility is unacceptable. It is a strong proof that a shelter can turn the area into a hotbed for crime. It has a devastating impact on the safety and security, economic growth and public health of the affected neighborhoods and the wider Santa Clara community.

We are deeply disappointed and outraged about the misleading communication from county officials, LifeMoves, and city councilmembers regarding the proposed shelter. In the first outreach meeting, officials from the county and LifeMoves showed an apparent lack of knowledge about how many schools and other child facilities were located near the Benton location. In the 2nd meeting, Ms. Consuelo Hernandez claimed there were only four schools located within 1.5 miles of the shelter, which is still incorrect. **The correct number is 15, and will go much higher if we include daycares and after-school programs.** This grossly inaccurate information demonstrates the officials' ignorance of the safety and well-being of the community, as well as the poor quality of their work.

Furthermore, Ms. Consuelo Hernandez attempted to use the Branham and Monterey shelter as an example to justify the proposed location near Benton, stating that the neighborhoods are similar. **However, this comparison is illogical and misleading, as the Branham and Monterey location was a terrible mistake made by the city of San Jose, which should not be repeated by the city of Santa Clara**. Additionally, the impact on the safety of schools near the Benton location will be significantly greater than that of Branham, as there are 15 schools with a total student population of 10,483 within 1.5 miles of Benton, compared to 3 schools and 1,116 students near Branham. **This risk and potential consequences of the Benton location will be 9 times greater than that of Branham**, and will be much higher if we include teachers and staff, and students from daycares and after-school

programs.

Table 1: Schools within 1.5 Miles of the Proposed Benton Site

Schools	Distance from the Property	Student population
Stratford School	0.25 miles	905
Laurelwood Elementary	0.26 miles	623
Pomeroy Elementary	0.33 miles	344
Monticello Academy	0.38 miles	340
Santa Clara High School	0.58 miles	2,030
Basis Lower School	0.62 miles	380
Peterson Middle School	0.63 miles	871
New Valley / Gateway High School	0.75 miles	160
John Sutter Elementary	0.81 miles	530
Briarwood Elementary School	0.90 miles	292
St. Lawrence Elementary and Middle School	0.93 miles	497
Central Park Elementary	1.2 miles	445
Millikin Basics+ Elementary School	1.2 miles	563
Ponderosa Elementary School	1.3 miles	542
Wilcox High School	1.4 miles	1,961
Total student population		**10,483**

Table 2: Comparison of Branhan and Benton location

	Branham and Monterey shelter	**Proposed Benton shelter**
Number of schools within 1.5 miles	3	**15**
List of schools under 15 min walk	i) Hayes Elementary School - 12 min walk	i) Laurelwood elementary - 11 min walk ii) Pomeroy elementary - 13 min walk iii) Stratford - 14 min walk
List of schools under 20 min walk	i) Hayes Elementary School - 12 min walk ii) Davis (Caroline) Intermediate School - 16 min walk	i) Laurelwood elementary - 11 min walk ii) Pomeroy elementary - 13 min walk iii) Stratford - 14 min walk iv) Santa Clara High School - 16 min walk v) Basis lower school - 17 min walk vi) Monticello - 19 min walk
Total number of students affected	1,116	**10,483**

We are also deeply disappointed and angered by the intentional misinterpretation of our concerns for safety. The City, County and LifeMoves have depicted us, taxpayers and voters, as selfish individuals who prioritize our property value over human lives. Resorting to such an act of smearing has completely disregarded the fact that above all, we are parents, spouses, sons, and daughters who are fighting to protect our families and loved ones. We urge the City, County and LifeMoves to stop stereotyping residents and voters, and instead participate in constructive conversation and leverage the wisdom of residents to make our community a better place for everyone.

We are actively seeking alternative ways to help the unhoused population by proposing alternative uses for this land. **Majority of residents are willing to consider a low-income rent-to-own housing project for teachers or first responders** who work hard to uplift our community but cannot afford to live here. This investment would uplift the community and make it even more thriving, especially given the proximity of the location to schools. This is also suggested by city councilmember Kevin Park.

The association suggests moving the proposed low-barrier shelter **to a less residential area and providing amenities and support to help rehabilitate those individuals**. With significant government funding available, we can tackle the root causes of homelessness through rehabilitation and addressing the underlying issues.

We believe that these concerns should warrant proper consideration and mitigation by the City, County and LifeMoves.

Regards,
Board Members, Safe Santa Clara County
[redacted]

From: Eric Kyungwoo Sung
To: Adam Marcus
Subject: I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:07:22 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues ... We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, but while it is a good and noble cause to help them, I strongly feel that mixing the “most challenging elements of the population” with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
Besides situated in a densely populated residential area, the proposed site is adjacent to a section of Lawrence Expressway that is 2-way, 8-lane with a tremendous amount of weekday traffic. None of the environmental characteristics, including but not limited to, loud, continuous noise, resultant lower air quality, proximity to high volume of vehicle traffic is conducive to rehabilitation and stabilization of life after living on the street.
The County does own a number of parcels further away from residential areas. Palo Alto has had experience with building a homeless shelter in a non-residential area. In these areas, more space is available, which may enable more space allocation per unhoused individual, compared to the 4-story, container-like tiny rooms for individuals and couples proposed for the Benton site.
Last but not least, there is indisputable, data-backed research showing that a homeless shelter, either an “interim shelter”, “emergency shelter” or called by any other name, inevitably brings negative impacts onto the surrounding neighborhood. Crime rates will rise. Property market value (NOT assessed value thanks to Prop 13 in California) will fall. The county has converted the previous Bella Vista Inn into a homeless care facility this year. The Benton/Lawrence location is barely half a mile away. It seems unfair and unthoughtful to subject communities in the Lawrence/El Camino Real area to another one again.
With all above facts, I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Eric Sung

From: Janet Kim
To: [redacted]
Subject: I oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:40:56 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

I am writing to share my great concern and express my opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

First, this proposed shelter is in the middle of very walkable residential neighborhood which has quite a few schools, public parks and many homes. Since the city plans to admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues to this shelter, it will create an unsafe environment for people in this neighborhood. I live across from the proposed shelter location, during the past decade, our family experienced a car theft, our license plate being stolen and other issues. With each incident, our family had to spend so much time and effort to resolve the issue and not to mention all the stress and agony, even though we were the victims, so it is our top priority for me and our family to live in a neighborhood that is safe and to keep it safe. Helping people who are going through difficult time is a good act and I and our family do support that. But this should be done in a way that ensure safety for innocent citizen. And a helping act should cause no harm and danger to the majority of the population.

Also, I learned that the county has converted the previous Bella Vista Inn into a homeless care facility this year which is only about half a mile away from the Benton/Lawrence location. After learning this, it seems questionable as to why our neighborhood is being targeted and it seems rather unfair for our community which is near the proposed shelter location to host another shelter.

For above reasons, I strongly ask the city to consider a non-residential area for a homeless shelter. I heard the city of Palo Alto built a homeless shelter in a non-residential area which is a very reasonable approach. Since the County owns a number of parcels further away from residential areas, this would be an ideal approach to build a shelter.

To preserve the neighborhood that is rather safe, we ask you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

<!--[endif]-->
Regards,
Janet Kim

From: Benny Fong
To: Adam Marcus
Subject: I Oppose to building a homeless shelter at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 12:50:23 PM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am a long time resident of Santa Clara. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to many elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues ... We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, but while it is a good and noble cause to help them, I strongly feel that mixing the “most challenging elements of the population” with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
I urge you to vote NO on homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Ben Wong



From: Debbie Dempsey
To: [redacted]
Cc: Mayor and Council; [redacted]
Subject: Interim Housing at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 3:36:52 PM

I live on Shafer Drive which is within the 1000 foot radius of the proposed Interim Housing Site on the corner of Benton and Lawrence Expressway.

Because a low barrier interim housing site is strongly opposed by my community, myself included, I suggest that the site instead be used for affordable housing for:

1. Firefighters;
2. Police;
3. Nurses;
4. Health Care Workers; and
5. Employees of the City of Santa Clara.

The availability of affordable housing for the above will allow our community to build support services for our homeless population, including but not limited to:

A. Transformational case management for our City of Santa Clara homeless so we can better understand the needs of our homeless population;

B. Reach out to partner agencies for services, as for example:

- dentists;
- legal services and/or partners to help ensure that individuals attend all scheduled court appearances and do not re-offend;
- health care oversight;
- Goodwill or similar for clothing.

Once we are confident that we can successfully address the needs of our homeless population in the city of Santa Clara, then an interim housing site can be identified that is <u>not</u> in a residential neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dempsey
[redacted]

From: Ray Leon
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter, Wrong location
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:20:18 PM

Hello,

My name is Ray de Leon , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find a non-residential land for the facility like this. I'm counting on you.

From: Bei
To: [redacted]
Subject: Oppose Benton Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 2:29:31 PM

My name is Bee, resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find a non-residential land for the facility like this.

I'm counting on you!

Thanks,

Bee
--

pei

From: freyzhou
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Opposing Benton-Lawrence Homeless Shelter
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 8:27:13 PM

Hi,

I'm a Santa Clara resident and I live on Thrush way, walking distance away from the proposed homeless shelter. I strongly oppose building the low-barrier shelter in dense residential area. The Mountain View site is built in the center of industrial area, and why can't we just follow them? I don't understand why proposing a similar location when white oak shelter was rejected less than a year ago.

Please vote 'NO' to this.

Best,
Frey

From: puredancing
To: Hernandez, Consuelo
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 4:46:58 PM

Hi Consuelo,

In the 3/9 in person meeting, there were at least 5 speakers who support this project who came from house advocate organizations (and none of them live in our neighbourhood), one of them told us that you invited her to come. There was at least one speaker who was a student of Ken Yeager. Ken Yeager brought a group of students as well. I talked to the student after the meeting, he has little context for the Benton Project. He even could not tell where exactly the project will be built. He said his professor (Ken Yeager) asked him to come. **All of those behaviors during the public community hearing are considered cheating and manipulating public opinion. Those are unacceptable.**

Given what has happened in the 3/9 meeting, the 3/22 Zoom meeting, without monitoring and supervision, can only be worse. Therefore, to make sure that the 3/22 meeting is transparent and unbiased, we request that **we nominate 1-2 people to co-host with you. Also please make participants list, chat, and discussion board visible to all.**

I will think about your idea of having another in-person public community meeting and get back to you later.

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 5:50 PM Hernandez, Consuelo <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Cindy,
>
> We heard from the community that they would like to engage in small group discussions. There is a function in zoom that allows breakout rooms. This is typically manageable when we have 100 – 150 people in attendance but we anticipate there will be at least 400 people like the first zoom meeting we held. As such, we are working through the logistics.
>
> As staff we do not organize groups that support or oppose the proposal. Our summary of the meeting will include a note that identifies the advocacy group that made comments in support of the project. I was not aware of a SJSU group but will ask our team to go back and watch the recording to see if anyone identified themselves specifically as a SJSU student.
>
> I think a better idea would be for us to set up a separate and additional meeting where you can control the guest list and invite the project team to speak. We have done this in other

communities, and it has led to a better discussion with a smaller group of concerned and direct neighbors.

Please let me know if you are interested and we can work on setting up a date and time before the City Council meeting on April 25th. We can also meet to discuss the logistics of hosting such a meeting and if it makes sense have representatives from your different neighborhood groups attend.

Thanks,

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

[redacted]

From: puredancing <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 5:31 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]>;
[redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

Hello Consuelo,

Can you be more specific about "we are working on setting up the meeting in a way that will allow for small group discussions"? Who will be included in this "small group discussion"? How can you make sure they will represent the neighborhood who live close to Benton location?

To answer your question, by "astroturfing" or "market false impressions of public support", I mean "institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community." There are at lease five of them from house advocate orgs, one told us that you invited her and a few others. Also there was a group of SJSU students who "were asked to come and support this project by our professor Ken Yeager" (quote from one of the students).

I understand you need to ”always find a way to get it done”, and you support the project at Benton location, but the way need to be transparent and unbiased. It cannot be like the 3/9 meeting, or the zoom meeting you hold for Crew View or Bella Visa where you invited supporters to cheat on public opinion. **To sum up, community meetings are to hear from local neighbourhood residents. They should be residents living within a short distance from Benton, NOT everyone. We people who live in the neighbourhood need to make sure the 3/22 meeting is for our NEIGHBOURHOOD.**

To do that, if you said you cannot change the format for the 3/22 meeting, we request that we nominate a co-host from our neighborhood to host the meeting together with you, so we can make sure the selection of speakers is transparent, and there won't be anything behind the screen on your end.

Also, we request you and the co-host make the comments and participants' list visible to everyone. If you have nothing going on behind the screen, I don't see a reason why you won't consider adjusting the zoom meeting settings.

On Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 15:54 Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted] > wrote:

> Hi Cindy,
>
> I am not exactly sure what you are referring to when you say “astroturfing” or “market false impressions of public support”. Our primary engagement has been with the local community and we invited everyone in attendance last week to speak. People were fairly provided with 1 minute each to speak. We also collected many comment cards that will be shared and included in our Community Engagement Report. Our objective is to share what we heard during the community meetings and have been transparently posting the materials and recordings of the meetings on the project website.
>
> We are hosting the March 22nd meeting via zoom in response to concerns from the community who were not able to attend the in-person meetings. This announcement has already been made and we are working on setting up the meeting in a way that will allow for small group discussions. We will be sending postcards to the neighborhood within a 1,000 foot radius in the coming week.
>
> If there is a desire to host a different type of meeting before the City Council meeting on

April 25th I would be happy to explore that with you and others in the neighborhood.

Thank you for staying engaged and sharing your thoughts.

Consuelo Hernandez, AICP

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: puredancing <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:14 PM
To: Hernandez, Consuelo [redacted]>;
[redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 3/22 meeting format and request

Hello Consuelo and Adam,

My name is Cindy and I live in Birdland neighborhood. I want to **strongly express my indignation and concern regarding the practice of astroturfing before in the third hearing held on March 9th, and for the upcoming meeting on 3/22.** Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions with vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as part of the community. This action to market false impressions of public support for the project sets up a plot to manipulate public opinion, a clear violation of the principles of law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

The 3/22 meeting will be on Zoom, which is much easier to manipulate community opinion and engage in astroturfing. To make sure that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased, I strongly recommend you to do the following changes to the meeting format:

1. Change to in-person meeting instead, as covid has already ended.

2. Add 1-2 co-hosts that the majority of the neighborhood recommend to co-host with you (our Safe SantaClara County volunteer group can recommend 1-2 person, and they will represent thousands of homes in our community). That person should have the same access and permission as you do.

3. All of you host the meet at the same place. For example, you can host the meeting together in Ms. Hernandez's office.

4. Open the chat, discussion and participant's list and make them visible to all participants.

Again, I hope you both are on the same page with us for a transparent community meeting, which will **not presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents, will not engage in astroturfing anymore.**

Best,

Cindy

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From: sky[redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom!
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:00:13 AM

To Representatives of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:

As a local resident, **I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. THEY DON'T EVEN LIVE HERE AND THEY DON'T CARE!!!!!! As the representative of residents, how can you let such things happen? Do you truly represent us?**

Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual

meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

By A Long term residents of Benton Neighborhood.

From: Yi Huang
To: Consuelo[redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:59:27 AM

Hi,

I'm a current resident in the area that will be affected by this project and I'm writing to express my **disappointment and concerns** with what is going on recently. I heard that institutions and individuals that do not live in the community were taken into serious consideration in this matter, which I found unacceptable and unbelievable. For them, it is just one politically right thing to say with no costs to them at all. For us that are currently living in this area, there is a huge price to pay including sacrificing the safe community because of those unstable and dangerous peeple. The political right needs to stop! Do not act kind when you have nothing to lose.

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

Regards,
Yi Huang

From:	Eric Kyungwoo Sung
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:05:53 AM

I am extremely disappointed that you invited some supporters of the Benton project, portrayed them as members of the local community then asked them to speak at the March 9th Benton public hearing on the neighbors' behalf. Everyone is free to express their opinion. But it is completely unacceptable that institutions or individuals with a vested interest in the project were invited to speak for the project and disguised themselves as local neighbors. In the 3/9 meeting, at least 5 speakers are from housing advocate organizations, who don't live in the neighborhood. Ken Yeager, a professor from SJSU and former county supervisor, brought a dozen of college students to support and speak for the project. None of them are from the Benton neighborhood. This action gave false impressions of public support for the project and set up a plot to manipulate public opinion. It clearly violated law and democracy. **I have zero-tolerance towards such behavior.**

For the upcoming 3/22 meeting, **I strongly urge the city and county to change the meeting to in-person or add a co-host nominated by the Benton neighborhood to host the virtual meeting together. We also urge the city and county to stop presenting the view of incentivized participants as the view of the local residents in all future meetings**.

Toward a fair and open dialogue between the government and the people, we hereby request that **1)** a representative from the neighborhood join the virtual meeting as a **co-host** alongside Ms. Consuelo Hernandaz. **2)** The co-host shall have the same meeting permission and control, and host the meeting from the same physical location, for example, in Ms. Hernandez's office. **3)** Make sure that live comments and participant list are always visible to everyone. These are essential to ensuring that community outreach meetings are transparent and unbiased.

From:	Mengxi Li
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:06:36 AM

To whom it may concern:

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-A Santa Clara resident

From:	Amber Hung
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:08:02 AM

Hi Sir,

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--
Regards,
Amber Hung

From:	Amber Hung
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:09:06 AM

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--
Regards,
Jo Yu Hung

From:	Shea Shea
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:10:14 AM

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--
Regards,
Jason Shea

From: Sun Eva
To: Consuelo[redacted]
Subject: Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:11:55 AM

Hi there,

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Thanks,
Eva

From:	Shaun Shroff
To:	Consuelo[redacted]
Subject:	Stop astroturfing and misrepresenting public opinion; Make 3/22 meeting in-person or add neighborhood co-host for Zoom
Date:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 10:54:35 AM

Consuelo,

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From: Rui Liang
To: [redacted]
Subject: Strongly Oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location.
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:19:24 PM

Hello,

My name is Rui Liang , resident of Santa Clara. I strongly oppose Benton shelter. This is the wrong location. I urge you to cease consideration of this location, and vote no as our representative. City and county need to find a non-residential land for the facility like this. I'm counting on you.

--
Best Regards,

Rui Liang

From: [redacted]
To: Mayor and Council; Adam Marcus
Subject: We Oppose the shelter built at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:15:39 AM

Elected Officials of Santa Clara City and Santa Clara County:
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of constructing a homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.
This location sits within walking distance to quite a few elementary schools, daycares, public parks and a sprawling neighborhood of single family homes, apartments, senior homes. Families stroll in the area with their kids. Young students walk to and from their schools daily. Senior citizens enjoy their retirement life in the communities.
The county has clearly indicated that this shelter shall admit people with prior criminal background, with prior or ongoing drug abuse, with mental health issues. We believe people living a difficult life deserve a helping hand, and it is a good and noble cause to help them. I strongly feel that mixing the "most challenging elements of the population" with some of the most innocent & vulnerable members of the community shows a lack of thoughtfulness and sincerity on the part of the county/city in their effort to locate such a homeless care facility.
I urge you to vote NO on any and all upcoming proposals/projects associated with homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

Regards,

Ben Wo and family
Residents of Santa Clara

From: Gautam Kulkarni
To: Clerk; npimentel@satnaclaraca.gov
Subject: 4/25 council meeting on Benton Project (item #1)
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:11:53 PM

Dear Santa Clara City Council,

I am a concerned citizen and taxpayer who lives close to the proposed Benton/Lawrence shelter site. I would like the council to vote **NO** on this misguided initiative. It is extremely concerning and appalling that the city and county would even consider putting a low-barrier homeless shelter in a family oriented neighborhood with so many children and schools in the immediate vicinity. The planners and representatives have displayed a cavalier attitude towards the safety concerns raised by hardworking, tax-paying citizens.

Here is a non-exhaustive list of concerns/questions:

- Neither the county nor the city nor Lifemoves showed the ability to do even basic research about the community. In the first meeting, they had no answer about schools in the neighborhood. In subsequent meetings, the county map excluded a large number of schools.

- The county/city employees tried to obfuscate the matter by trying to use terms such as "shelter" or "interim housing" as if they are different. The people know better.

- The county/city employees have always downplayed safety concerns when numerous data reports presented by several citizens show otherwise.

- Which public safety experts were consulted and what was their feedback? We expect that information to be made available to us without filtering.

- Supervisor Susan Ellenberg had organized a voter meeting at the San Jose Rose Garden, where she did not bother to show up.

- Consuelo Hernandez (Santa Clara County) was supposed to meet with community members earlier this week. That did not happen.

- City/county officials keep asking us to find alternatives. I would like to remind them that that is your job, not ours. We pay for your salaries, benefits and pensions and therefore expect you to do your job.

If you vote yes on this project, you are going against the interests of the vast majority of honest, hard working taxpayers and voters. We are watching this closely and will either recall or vote you out.

Regards,
Gautam

From:	Zhihao Ji
To:	Clerk; Nora Pimentel
Subject:	a document for 04/25 council meeting on Benton Project (item #1)
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:11:16 PM

Hi,

I want to provide a document that discusses why homekey doesn't work for helping homelessness. Please attach to the 04/25 meeting agenda. This document shows a lot of data and evidence that homekey failed in california. I hope council members can read and address issues it brings up before voting for this project.

Project Homekey Provides No Way Home for California's Homeless
https://www.pacificresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Homekey_Final.pdf

Thank you!
Zhihao

From:	Ashish Verma
To:	Nora Pimentel; Clerk
Subject:	Requesting this material to be added for 4/25 Santa Clara City Council Meeting
Date:	Tuesday, April 18, 2023 12:38:43 PM
Attachments:	Working together in solving homelessness crisis along with improving safety 4.4.23.pdf

Hi Nora,

I'd request you to add this presentation and email to the agenda for the meeting on 4/25 regarding Lawrence/Benton Homeless Shelter.

Thanks,
Ashish

_____

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. Per our local police, more than 90% of the unhoused homeless that they get into touch with have substance abuse issues.
Imagine your home being in proximity to such a facility where such folks may be getting help, but are quite free to roam around, loiter around your homes or schools. How does that make you feel?

Recent brutal attack on the former San Francisco fire commissioner in Marina District exemplifies what your residents are afraid of.

This is not a fear of the unknown but rather a fear due to the known perils associated with severe mental disorders, substance abuse and repeat criminal behaviors.

Ms. Mayor and council members, the tax paying citizens, especially the middle class want safety first. Nothing comes above that for families that just want a safe environment to bring up their kids. So far we have not seen any tangible proof regarding the efficacy of screenings done by LifeMoves to allay our concerns.

Most of the residents are amenable to a low income rent to own housing for teachers, nurses, firefighters, police workers etc. who work hard to uplift our community but get priced out from this expensive city. Such an investment would uplift the community and make it

even more thriving. Please refer to the presentation attached.

Most of the residents also suggest moving such "low barrier entry shelters for singles/couples" in a relatively non-residential area, and providing amenities and support that help such individuals rehabilitate. There is so much money being pumped by the government that we can really tackle this problem at its root cause, by rehabilitation and learning the issues that are causing this situation in the first place. We have already found a number of locations within Santa Clara County that could be a better fit. If you can support us, we'd be able to tackle the issue of the housing crisis for low income households along with tackling homelessness jointly, without compromising on the safety of your residents. We could actually become a shining example of how this can be done right, with the power of the majority of residents with you. The current approach just seems to be a very expensive band-aid that would only increase problems for tax paying residents and jeopardize our safety.

We need your support in making safety the topmost priority.

Regards,
Ashish
Lawrence/Benton Neighborhood

From:	Ashish Verma
To:	Nora Pimentel; Clerk
Subject:	Material #3 to be added for 4/25 Santa Clara City Council Meeting (item#1)
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:32:44 AM
Attachments:	SF fire commissioner attack_ New details, video in brutal beating of Don Carmignani in Marina District - ABC7 San Francisco.pdf

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Hi Nora,

I'd request you to add this document to the agenda for the meeting on 4/25 regarding Lawrence/Benton Homeless Shelter.

This shows an example of safety issues associated with an increase in folks with substance abuse in any neighborhood.
We do not want to have issues like these in Santa Clara.

Attached is a PDF version of this article.
(Link: https://abc7news.com/sf-fire-commissioner-attack-don-carmignani-san-francisco-crime-metal-pipe/13100484)

Regards,
Ashish

ABC7 Bay Area 24/7 live stream

WATCH 50° LOG IN

STAINMASTER
Visualize your new flooring
Use the Lowe's Flooring Visualizer to see how carpet options will look in virtual room scenes.

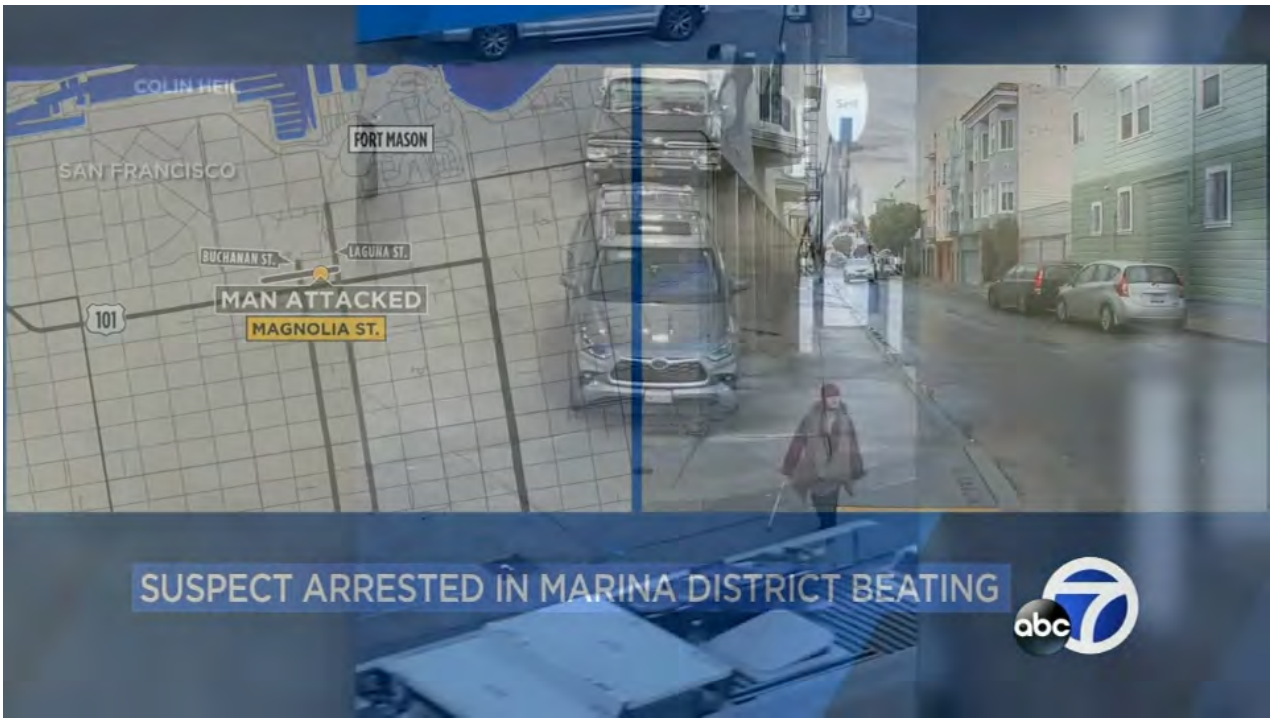


New details, video in brutal attack of former SF fire commissioner in Marina District



By Lyanne Melendez

Friday, April 7, 2023



EMBED <> MORE VIDEOS

New details are emerging from the brutal attack of former San Francisco Fire Commissioner Don Carmignani in the city's Marina District

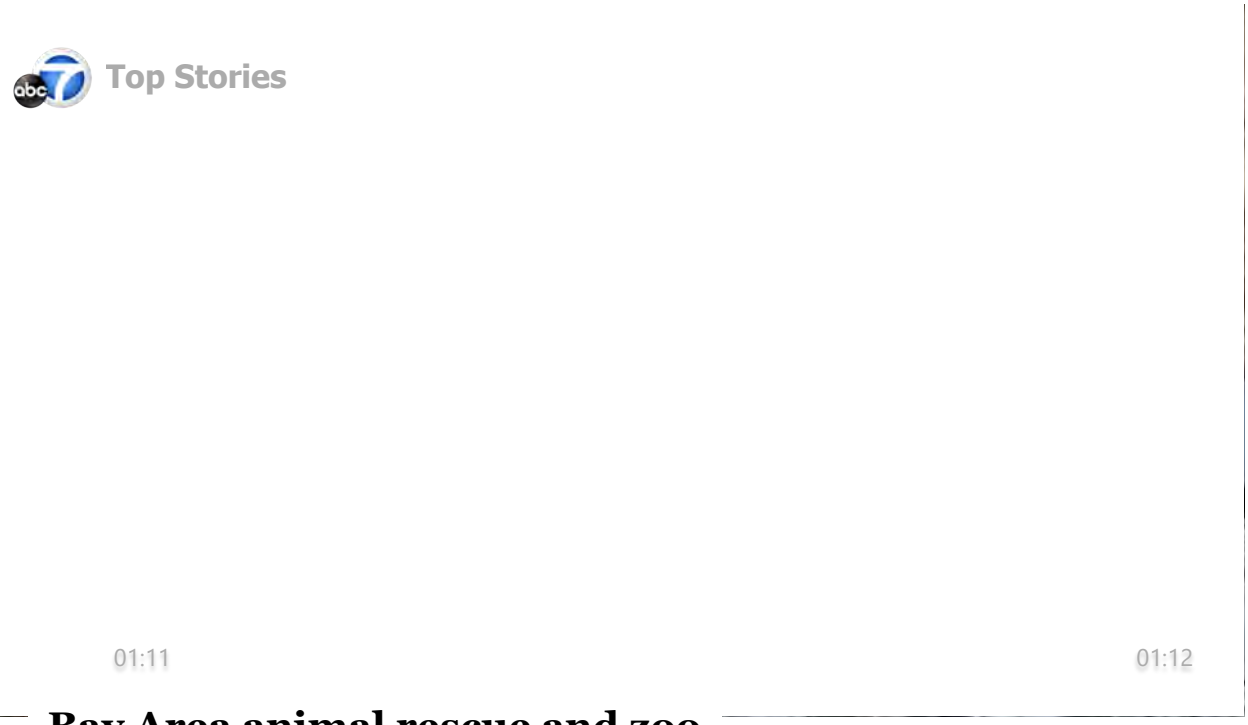
SAN FRANCISCO (KGO) -- A brutal attack on a former fire department commissioner is putting in question, again, the safety on San Francisco's streets. It happened Wednesday night in the Marina District. Don Carmignani remains in the hospital.

Cell phone video shows the man San Francisco police say brutally assaulted former fire department Commissioner Don Carmignani, with some type of metal object.

"Right here, here, around the corner, in front of the gas station. He almost beat the man into the street with all these cars passing by," said one witness.

INTERACTIVE: Take a look at the ABC7 Neighborhood Safety Tracker

Several other people witnessed the attack which took place on Magnolia and Laguna streets in the Marina District, within a few paces from where Carmignani lives.



Bay Area animal rescue and zoo needs help as they recover from severe storm da...

The man arrested is homeless and neighbors here say he befriended these two other homeless people who have made this area their home.

We spoke to one of them Nate Roye who gave us more details about the weapon that was said to be used by the alleged attacker.

"It wasn't a crow bar. It was two round pieces of metal that had been broken," said Roye who is from North Carolina but has lived on the streets of San Francisco for the past three years.

MORE: **Is SF's violent crime as 'horrific' as tech execs claim? Here's what data shows**

Roye, who says he was with the attacker, claims they were sprayed with bear mace because Carmignani didn't like that they were hanging out near his home.



We asked him why hit someone over the head like that and attack him. "Because he was being disrespectful?" Roye said. We asked him who was being disrespectful. He responded, "The fat guy. There was a big old bald guy. Yeah, Don."

We asked him if that was reason enough to beat him up. "Yeah, sometimes," Roye responded.

"These types of brutal attack and these types of brazen attacks, these are the types of things that have been anxious about what's happening," explained Police Chief Bill Scott.

While other crime statistics remained steady or have gone down, the police chief is right.

MORE: **A look at homicides in SF this year, in light of Cash App founder Bob Lee's stabbing death**

EMBED <> MORE VIDEOS

The death of Cash App's Bob Lee is a high profile case, with police giving it a lot of attention. But what about the other homicides in SF this year?

According to the ABC7 News neighborhood Safety Tacker, so far this year the number of robberies has gone up by 14% compared to the same time last year and assaults are also on the rise by 2.2%.

Carmignani remains at San Francisco General Hospital with injuries to his head and face.

Civil rights attorney, Joe Alioto visited him and as we interviewed him, we were interrupted by someone incoherent.

"In San Francisco, we do not have a mechanism to take care of people who have mental health issues and so here we have a good example of this," said Alioto.

From: Ashish Verma
To: Nora Pimentel; Clerk
Subject: Material #4 to be added for 4/25 Santa Clara City Council Meeting (item#1)
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 1:10:22 PM
Attachments: Lower Property Values.pdf

Hi Nora,

I'd request you to add this document to the agenda for the meeting on 4/25 regarding Lawrence/Benton Homeless Shelter.

This shows an article that shows impact to property values due to homeless shelters. (Link: How Homeless Encampments Lower Property Values (ecobear.co))

Thanks,
Ashish

AUTHORITATIVE RESEARCH ON HOW HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS LOWER PROPERTY VALUES



In the past few years, a growing number of residential neighborhoods have faced the establishment of homeless encampments in their environs. Because this is something of a newer phenomenon, there is little definitive research on the precise impact homeless encampments have on property values in residential neighborhoods in which these camps exist.

Historically, homeless encampments tended to rise in city centers, including in commercial and industrial zones. In this day and age, in many metropolitan areas, homeless encampments can fairly be said to be cropping up everywhere.

Understanding the dearth in more definitive data specifically directed at the impact of homeless encampments on residential property values, we present a fair, reasonable extrapolation of data on matters impacting residential valuations that have a real, affirmative connection to the impact of homeless encampments.

Comparative Drag on Property Values: Cross Referencing Property Value Decrease From a Homeless Shelter

The National Association of Realtors has done extensive research on the impact the establishment of different types of businesses in or near a primarily residential neighborhood has on property values. One type of entity that the National Association of Realtors has examined is a homeless shelter. Through its research and analysis, the National Association of Realtors has concluded that a homeless shelter in a residential neighborhood has the potential for lowering property values by 12.7 percent.

As of this moment in time, the National Association of Realtors has not undertaken a comprehensive study on the impact homeless encampments have on property values in a residential neighborhood. With that noted, a fair extrapolation can statistically and realistic be made when using a homeless shelter in a residential neighborhood as a starting point for calculating the impact of a homeless encampment.

A basic fact is that a homeless encampment brings all of the same negative considerations to a residential enclave that are found with the presence of a homeless shelter – and then some. The negative elements homeless encampments share with homeless shelters include:

- Higher crime rates
- Increased police calls into the neighborhood
- Damage to residential property by homeless shelter residents
- Significantly increased drug use in the neighborhood
- Increased public intoxication or inebriation
- Increased assaults on and threats to property owners or renters in the neighborhood

In addition to these factors homeless encampments share with homeless shelters, camps have other negative features that outpace those associated with shelters:

- Raw human waste in the neighborhood
- Other dangers biohazards (including used hypodermic needles used for drug injection)
- Unsightly encampments themselves
- Inability to access sidewalks
- Inability to access parks
- Lasting damage to public spaces
- Even higher crime rates than associated with shelters
- Even more frequent police calls into the neighborhood than associated with shelters
- Persistent odors emitting from an encampment

Anecdotally and statistically, it is correct to conclude that the presence of a more harmful entity in a residential neighborhood in the form of a homeless encampment will cause an even greater drag on residential property values.

Curb Appeal Extends Beyond Immediate Residence To Entire Block and Beyond

A great deal of attention is paid to curb appeal when it comes to the marketability of a residence. Million Acres, a service of Motley Fool, defines curb appear as:

At its core, the term "curb appeal" refers to the way your home looks when it's viewed from the street. It's a combination of all the eye-catching design elements that are used to make your home's exterior look its best. Homeowners often do their best to add curb appeal because they want their home to be aesthetically pleasing when they pull into their driveway at the end of a long day. However, it becomes even more important when thinking of putting the property on the market.

Spectrum, a support organization for homeowners' associations across the United States, emphasizes that curb appeal is not limited to the state of an individual residential property. The concept of curb appeal extends to a block or neighborhood in its entirety. Spectrum asserts:

Neighborhoods with plenty of curb appeal tend to maintain property values better. Surprised? No, we didn't think you would be. While it is obvious that well-kept homes, yards, and common areas help neighborhoods stay desirable, it's hard work keeping neighborhoods in like-new condition!

While not trying to sound overly superficial, the stark reality is that any type of eyesore on a block or in a neighborhood impacts the curb appear of those individual residences in the area. The word eyesore has become something of a technical term when it comes to the impact of something unsightly and its impact on surrounding property, including homes. A common place definition of eyesore is something that is largely "considered unpleasant or ugly." From a technical standpoint, the usage of eyesore is considered as "an alternative perspective" to a landmark.

Common examples of eyesores impacting the curb appear and associated property values of homes include:

- Litter
- Graffiti
- Dilapidated structures
- Polluted areas
- Excessive signage
- Transmission towers
- Weeds
- Mud
- Feces

A number of these common examples of eyesores are generally connected to homeless encampments, including litter, dilapidated structures, polluted areas, mud, and feces. Added to the list usually is used hypodermic needles used from illicit drug consumption.

Residential Property Unsellable in Neighborhood With Homeless Encampment

If a neighborhood is the site of a homeless encampment, a real issue arises as to whether a home can be placed on the market effectively for sale. This becomes even a more significant issue if a homeless encampment is on the block where a particular residence is located.

We've already discussed the impact a homeless encampment can have on residential property values. The market value of a residence can experience a significant drag if a homeless encampment is in the neighborhood. That alone may be a reason to hold off putting a home on the market, if at all possible.

On a related note, if a homeless encampment is in a neighborhood in which a house is on the market, odds are strong that attracting prospective buyers to even take a look at the property will be next to impossible. Not only will the value of a residence drop significantly while a homeless encampment exists on the block or in the neighborhood, a homeless encampment in and of itself very well may have the same impact on prospective buyers as a crucifix has on a motion picture vampire.

Property Values After a Homeless Encampment Is Eliminated in a Neighborhood

Depending on ordinances and related factors in a particular community, a homeless encampment may prove relative transient. With that said, even in a county or municipality that has more aggressive regulation of homeless encampments, such camps may remain in place for a matter of months, not days or weeks.

On a closing note, issues regarding property values and homeless encampments, homeless encampments can persist even after camps are removed or otherwise eliminated. First of all, a comprehensive cleanup and sanitization process needs to occur to attempt to restore the property to a sanitary and safe condition.

Secondly, even after comprehensive cleaning and sanitization has occurred, the fact that a homeless encampment existed in a neighborhood may hang like something of a fog over the residences in the area. This can continue to impact property values into the future for what also can be a matter of a number of months.

In closing, the reality is that homeless encampments can and do have what oftentimes prove to be significant impacts on property values in residential neighborhoods. The residential property value drag is even likely to persist for some period of time once a homeless encampment in a neighborhood has been removed.

Category: Homeless Encampment By Emily Kil November 4, 2020

Author: Emily Kil

Emily Kil is co-owner of Eco Bear, a leading biohazard remediation company in Southern California. An experienced entrepreneur, Emily assisted in founding Eco Bear as a means of combining her business experience with her desire to provide assistance to people facing challenging circumstances. Emily regularly writes about her first-hand experiences providing services such as biohazard cleanup, suicide cleanup, crime scene cleanup, unattended death cleanup, infectious disease disinfection, and other types of difficult remediations in homes and businesses.

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(818) 358-4359 emily@ecobear.co

3740 Alta Mesa Drive, Studio City, CA 91604

From: Ashish Verma
To: Nora Pimentel; Clerk
Subject: Material #5 to be added for 4/25 Santa Clara City Council Meeting (item#1)
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:01:34 PM
Attachments: We want accountability.pdf

Last one:)

CAL MATTERS

HOMELESSNESS

California homelessness: Where are the state's billions going? Here's the new, best answer



BY BEN CHRISTOPHER
FEBRUARY 16, 2023



The tent of an unhoused person in a parking lot in Downtown Los Angeles on June 20, 2021. Photo by Teun Voeten, Sipa USA via Reuters

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IN SUMMARY

For the first time, a new state report offers a bird-eye view of how much the state has spent to halt homelessness — nearly $10 billion over three years. Of the half-million Californians who made use of those services, more than 40% ended up housed. Which also means the majority did not, or the state lost track of their whereabouts.

Lea este artículo en español.

In Sacramento, there's a word that keeps popping up during discussions about the state's homelessness crisis: "accountability."

Gov. Gavin Newsom has **scolded cities and counties** for failing to get more people off the street, hundreds of millions in state spending notwithstanding. "Californians demand accountability and results, not settling for the status quo," **the governor said last November**.

Republicans in the Legislature have called for an **audit of the state's homelessness spending**. Democrats are still **absorbing the last one from 2021**, but many want to see the state's money come with strings attached. This week, Assemblymember Luz Rivas, an Arleta Democrat, introduced a bill that would **demand "tangible results" from local governments** before they receive homelessness grants — mirroring an idea from the **governor's own budget proposal**.

The increasingly bipartisan chorus points to two stark, seemingly contradictory trends: The state **keeps spending more to address the crisis, and the crisis keeps getting worse**. So where, they ask, is all the money going?

On Wednesday, California lawmakers got something that resembles an answer.

The state's Interagency Council on Homelessness, a state body tasked with overseeing the state's homelessness strategy and divvying up funding to local governments, issued a report detailing just how much the state has spent on the crisis between 2018 and 2021 — and what it's gotten in return.

The answer to those questions, according to the report: The state has spent nearly $10 billion and provided services to more than 571,000 people, each year helping more people than the last.

And despite all that, at the end of year three, the majority of those more than half a million Californians still didn't end up with a roof over their heads. The number of unsheltered Californians continues to swell.

Presented at a three-hour joint committee hearing in the Assembly, the report has sent housing policy experts across the state into a twitter. Services for the homeless are so disjointed — split among nine state agencies, hundreds of county and municipal governments, nonprofits and charitable organizations — the 253-page document may be the first statistical birds-eye view of the state's many-tentacled efforts.

But it also shows just how intractable the problem is.

"One of the largest challenges facing the state is the inflow of new people into homelessness, even as efforts to help people experiencing homelessness expand," the report reads.

What the report did *not* address is how the state can spend its money more effectively. Nor was it asked to. The report comes at the request of the Legislature, which included an ask in its 2021 budget for a "comprehensive view of the homelessness response system," not an audit nor a list of recommendations.

But it may provide lawmakers, service providers and advocates with some helpful hints about what's working, what isn't and for whom.

"We've sent people to the moon," said Oakland Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, a Democrat who chairs the Assembly's housing committee. "We can solve homelessness in California."

Learn more about legislators mentioned in this story



BUFFY WICKS
State Assembly, District 14 (Oakland)
Expand for more about this legislator



COREY JACKSON
State Assembly, District 60 (Perris)
Expand for more about this legislator



WENDY CARRILLO
State Assembly, District 52 (Los Angeles)

Expand for more about this legislator

Here are four takeaways from the homelessness assessment:

1. California has been spending a lot to remedy homelessness — mostly on housing

Between 2018 and 2021, the state spent $9.6 billion trying to move the needle on homelessness.

Many Californians will be able to relate: The bulk of the spending, $5.5 billion in this case, went to the cost of housing.

That includes everything from building new units to preserving old ones, **converting unused hotel rooms during the pandemic into temporary housing**, building shelters, and setting up **permanent supportive housing facilities** that provide a long-term subsidized place to stay along with other on-site social services.

According to the report, the state produced or kept online 58,714 affordable housing units in the three year period, and added 17,000 new shelter beds.

Some of that spending has been more likely to lead people out of homelessness than others. Of the more than 75,000 people placed into permanent supportive housing of some kind, for example, only 8% wound up back on the street within six months.

Conversely, for those who left a state funded program to live with a family member or a friend, the rate of those who were homeless again within six months doubled. And for those who left for a rental with only a temporary subsidy, that rate of return to homelessness was 23%.

For some legislators and advocates, the figures underscored the importance of building more housing above all other interventions.

"Shelters are very expensive to build; they're very expensive to operate," said Emily Halcon, the director of Sacramento County's Department of Homeless Services and Housing. "What we know is a real solution is housing."

But building more housing — particularly with subsidized rents or other wrap-around services — is expensive. That's in part why some homelessness and housing advocates say the 10-figure sum that the

state has spread across the three years of the assessment isn't even close to enough. A report from the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the California Housing Partnership at the end of last year put the **price tag of "solving" homelessness in California** at $8.1 billion *every year* for more than a decade.

2. A lot of people have been housed — but most have not

The report tracked more than half a million Californians who, over the three year period, made use of at least one of the services that the state funds, as recorded in a new state database.

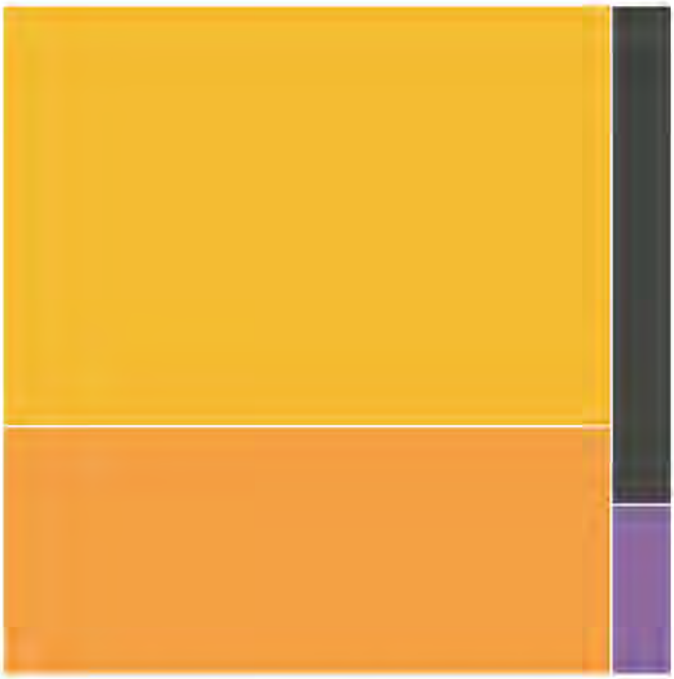
The good news: More than 40% ended up in housing — supportive, subsidized or otherwise.

The bad news: The majority didn't, or the state lost track of their whereabouts.

Nearly 17% were, at the end of the period, still in a shelter or temporary housing of some other kind or had exited whatever program they were enrolled in "into homelessness." Another quarter fell out of the system entirely, their "destination" unknown.

Where did they go?

Of the 571,246 Californians who received state-funded hom
"final observed outcomes":



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

A Flourish hierarchy chart

Assemblymember Corey Jackson, a Democrat from Perris who chairs the Assembly Human Services committee, asked about the 17% who return to homelessness, which he called a "red flag" in the data.

"We need to remember that this is the emergency response system, if you will," responded Dhakshike Wickrema, the deputy secretary of California's Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. "What more can we be doing which is outside the homeless system? It's like when you go to the emergency room — what could the primary care physician have done to prevent the acute diabetes?"

3. The burden of homelessness is not equally distributed

Drawing on the most **recent "point-in-time" survey**, which provides a blurry snapshot of how many people are living outside on a given night, the report emphasizes the stark racial and ethnic disparities that exist across the state's unsheltered population. Black people made up roughly 30% of the people counted on the street, more than five times their share of the state population. Indigenous Californians likewise were overrepresented five-fold.

And though Latino Californians were underrepresented, between 2015 and 2020, their numbers in surveys of the unsheltered increased by 65%, the fastest growing ethnic or racial group.

4. Not all homelessness looks the same

When politicians or talking heads use the word "homelessness," it's often meant to evoke a particular person experiencing a particular set of problems: someone asleep on the sidewalk, unbathed, suffering from acute mental illness, addiction, physical disability or some combination of the three.

That's the most visible version of the state's homelessness crisis, but as the new figures show, it isn't the most common one.

According to the report, 1 in 5 people who enrolled in state-funded homelessness programs were considered "chronically homeless" — unsheltered for at least a year while living with a complicating health issue.

But more than three times as many – two-thirds of all who sought state-funded services for homelessness — were people who hadn't popped up in the system for at least two years, if ever.

These might be families evicted and temporarily residing in a car, someone couch surfing while gathering the money for a rental deposit, or people who got their own apartment only to get slammed with an unexpected car payment and find themselves back in a shelter.

Acknowledging that continuum matters — not just for the sake of accuracy, said Assemblymember Wendy Carillo, a Los Angeles Democrat, but because different paths into homelessness might be best met with different pathways out.

"Whether it's someone living in their vehicle, being evicted from their home, someone experiencing chronic homelessness for decades, living on the streets of Skid Row for many, many years, all of these

things are different," she said. "They need to have different solutions."

The fastest-growing homeless population? Seniors

Some seniors have been homeless for years and are now growing older. But the increasing numbers also reflect another trend: those experiencing homelessness for the first time after age 50.



by Ana B. Ibarra FEBRUARY 10, 2023

About-face: Why Newsom relented, released $1 billion despite lackluster local homeless plans

The governor threw communities into disarray two weeks ago by withholding $1 billion in homelessness funding for plans he saw as unambitious. But local officials said the assignment itself discouraged ambition. Now Newsom is yielding.



by Manuela Tobias NOVEMBER 21, 2022

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From:	Safe Santa Clara
To:	Nora Pimentel; Clerk
Cc:	nohomekeysc@gmail.com
Subject:	Add "Oppose Benton Project - Cover Letter from SafeSCC" to 4/25 meeting agenda on Benton (item #1)
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:02:57 PM
Attachments:	Oppose Benton Project - Cover Letter from SafeSCS.pdf

---

Hello Nora,

Please add the attached cover letter to the 4/25 meeting agenda. #1 on Benton Project.

"Oppose Benton Project - Cover Letter from SafeSCC".

Let me know if you have any questions or issue opening the letter.

--
SafeSCC.org



SafeSCC
Promoting Safe Neighborhoods

April 19, 2023

Mayor, Councilmembers,

On April 25th, you will vote on the Homekey project in partnership with Santa Clara County and LifeMoves at Benton & Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara. SafeSCC, a grassroots association of residents in Santa Clara, presented in City Hall today and submitted a petition on April 14 2023, on behalf of local residents who strongly **oppose the proposal**, with **5,293 signatures** collected since the proposal became public knowledge. In the 4th community public hearing, a live poll conducted by the county showed that over 80% of the community opposes the Benton project. In the other three meetings, the opposition is even higher.

We urge you to listen to the majority of residents and vote "No" on the Benton project, as numerous concerns must be addressed, including neighborhood impact and safety, location justification, fiscal concerns, design and policy concerns, environmental issues, project justification, and the credibility and accountability of the county and LifeMoves. In this letter, we have explained each concern in details, with data and evidence.

We believe these concerns - especially the environmental, neighborhood, and site-specific issues - warrant proper consideration by the city to **reject the Benton project**. In fact, should the City insist on moving forward with this project, we will demand an environmental and social impact study. Our association is currently in the process of retaining counsel to ensure that both the City and Developer adhere to all applicable local and state ordinances for this project.

Sincerely,
SafeSCC

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Section 1: Environmental Concerns

The location near busy Lawrence Expressway poses safety hazards for individuals with mental health issues and disabilities. Moreover, the small, densely packed rooms can create a prison-like environment for those with mental and physical disabilities. The addition of 124 - 248 residents[1] would also put tremendous pressure on traffic, parking, waste management, internet speed, power supply, water supply, and Bioretention Compliance. While a Homekey project may be exempt from CEQA, it needs documentation proving that it meets all exemption requirements. We hope the city is aware of this and submits a CEQA evaluation request for the site.

1.1 Density

LifeMoves proposes the Benton location to house up to max of 248 people at any given time, in a prefabricated module. Given that interim housing would allow occupants to stay 3-4 months, for a proposed total of 600-800 residents per year. These will be stacked 3-4 units high, on a 1.27 acre lot (a significant portion of which will be reserved for parking). We are concerned about the environmental impact of housing so many people on such a small site, in a facility built using novel construction methods.

1.2 Intersection

3590 Benton Street is located at the intersection of 3 roads: Benton street, Flora Vista AVe, and Lawrence Expressway. Thousands of vehicles per day pass through even the smaller Benton / Flora Vista intersection, not to mention the busy Lawrence Expressway.

During the second community meeting, City Councilmember Suds Jain made an incorrect statement by claiming that there would be no students or pedestrians walking past the LifeMoves Benton site. However, this is not true, as there are pedestrian crossings in all four directions. It is expected that a significant number of LifeMoves Benton residents, many of whom have serious physical or mental illnesses and criminal records or are re-entering society from jails, will navigate these intersections on foot each day, including sex offenders who are permitted to reside on site.

Given the vulnerable condition of the residents, this increased foot traffic poses a significant danger to both pedestrians and vehicle drivers. Additionally, a significant portion of the pedestrians using these crossings are K-12 school-aged children, some accompanied by parents, and young children in strollers with guardians, who are even more susceptible to harm.

According to the county and LifeMoves, 57% of LifeMoves Benton residents will have serious physical or mental illnesses[2]. Therefore, it is crucial to consider the safety of all

1 https://osh.sccgov.org/sites/g/files/exjcpb671/files/2023-03/Benton_Community_Mtg_No2_Presentation_030123_incl_map.pdf, slide 27.

2 https://youtu.be/3Q31bUIdBFU

pedestrians, including vulnerable populations, when evaluating the potential risks associated with the increased foot traffic.

1.3 Traffic

It can also be expected that such a major development (approx. max of 248 people at any given time) will drive a significant increase in vehicle traffic - by staff, volunteers, delivery, police, fire, EMT, and some residents. Consistent with other HomeKey and Lifemoves developments, it is reasonable to expect that some residents will own vehicles (see section 1.4 for more information). We believe this traffic will have a significantly detrimental effect on the surrounding area's environment, negatively impacting local residents - including noise, pollution, and congestion.

1.4 Parking

Benton and Flora Vista Ave already experienced significant parking issues as a result of the existing medium and high density housing developments on those streets, particularly during non-working hours. The church behind the site is short of parking space and has been using the site lot for overflow parking. Now as the site is no longer available for overflow parking, we can only expect parking to get worse with 248 new residents plus staff adding to the already packed neighborhood.

The proposed development allows for 80 parking spaces, some of which will likely be used by staff. The county's most recent statistics show that over 18% of unhoused residents currently live in a vehicle (both cars and RVs). Therefore we can expect a significant number of Benton patrons to have a vehicle. Additionally, one would expect a significant number of patrons to acquire vehicles as they reintegrate into housing and the job market. Taken together, we expect this will cause significant parking overflow issues onto already congested neighborhood streets in both Santa Clara and Sunnyvale.

We believe our concerns here are justified. The similar but smaller LifeMoves development in Mountain View shows significant vehicle overflow, including both cars and RVs, onto nearby streets, with local business owners confirming that vehicles are often parked for months.

There is also significant vehicle overflow onto the streets surrounding the Milpitas Homekey site, including RV dwellers who park nearby in the hope of obtaining residency at the facility. The RVs are a safety hazard to local residents as there have been reports of several RV fires on nearby streets. The City of Mountain View has prohibited RV parking within city limits in 2022, resulting in more homeless individuals with RVs moving to nearby cities like Santa Clara[3]. This change is also reflected in the reduction of the unhoused population numbers in Mountain View while seeing an increase in neighboring cities such as Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and Redwood City.

[3] https://www.mv-voice.com/news/2023/03/30/five-key-takeaways-from-an-investigation-into-lifemoves-mountain-view

1.5 Waste Management

A site of this density, with such a large population, will be expected to generate a significant amount of waste. It is not clear that there will be sufficient facilities or space available for adequate waste management at this site.

1.6 Bioretention Compliance

Stormwater treatment measures (bioretention areas) are required[4] for all construction projects that create and/or replace 10,000 square feet or more of impervious surface. We have not seen a plan that sets out areas of the development in compliance with the bioretention requirement. We have also not seen budget proposals and funding on maintenance and upkeep of bioretention areas, which from our personal experience as homeowners can be extremely expensive and difficult to maintain. This will likely result in increased budget requirements for the City to maintain.

Section II: Neighborhood Impact

2.1 Increased Burden and Fiscal Strain on Emergency Services

According to county data[5], over half of Santa Clara's homeless population have criminal backgrounds, spent time in jail, and suffer from serious mental illness. Testimony from police, council members in Santa Clara and Sunnyvale showed 80%-90% of the homeless population in Santa Clara have drug addictions. The low barrier design of the Benton project would allow individuals with criminal backgrounds, drug addicts, and those with serious mental illnesses to reside in the facility and stay in the neighborhood. These individuals will increase the likelihood of criminal activity and disturbances, disrupting the lives of nearby residents and students. This assumption is fully evidenced by the spike in crime at and around Mountain View Leghorn, Milpitas Hillview, and the Kifer Calabazas Community supportive housing sites, including violence, burglary, stolen vehicles, rape, and drug-related crimes.

The city of Santa Clara has not shown any signs of being prepared to handle an increase in crime rates associated with the project. Santa Clara's police force is already understaffed, and current California laws make it difficult to control or remove problematic or dangerous occupants. The increased demand on police resources from the Benton site could take away resources from the rest of residents, lead to slower response times and an overall increase in crime throughout the city.

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[4] https://www.santaclaraca.gov/our-city/departments-g-z/public-works/environmental-programs/stormwater pollution-prevention/stormwater-resources-for-development-construction

[5]chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://osh.sccgov.org/sites/g/files/exjcpb671/files/documents/BentonLawrence_Community-Meeting-1-Deck.pdf, or https://osh.sccgov.org/project-homekey-scc/benton

The Benton project will negatively impact surrounding businesses as well, as evidenced by the recent closures of Whole Foods' flagship store in San Francisco, closure of a CVS near a Homekey site in San Jose due to employee and public safety concerns, and the sale of the business park next to Milpitas' site by its owner[6]. In addition, businesses surrounding the Mountain View Leghorn site have had to add security. We do not want Santa Clara to become another city that loses its businesses.

2.2 Crime

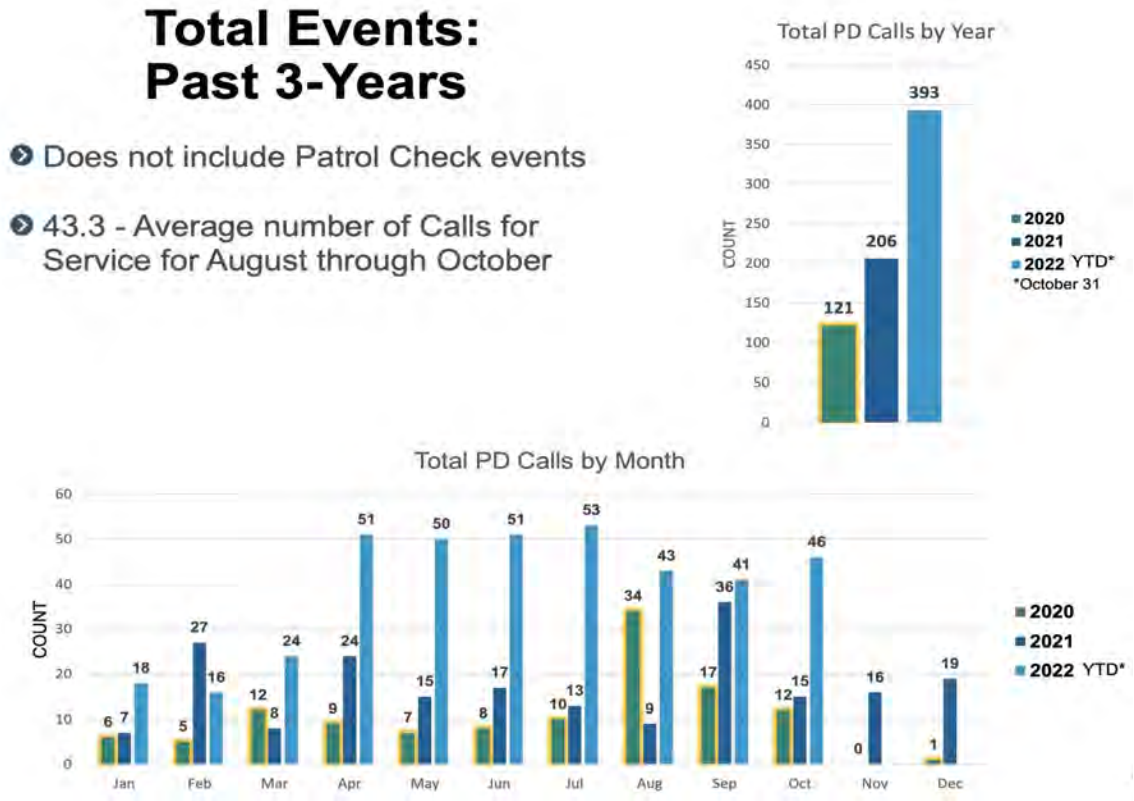
In order to appease concerns related to increase in crime related to this proposed site, LiveMoves claims the site will have strict policy. Project Homekey 2.0, per "housing first" criteria[7], does not allow any vetting of residents. Santa Clara County's own statistics[8] show that over 25% of the homeless population has spent at least one night in jail - in the past twelve months. 42% have Psychiatric/Emotional Conditions; 35% are experiencing issues with Drug or Alcohol use; 33% suffer from PTSD. These issues are vastly overrepresented in the unhoused vs. the general population.

Concentrating this population - without any vetting, in a radically experimental, ultra high density development in the middle of a residential neighborhood is likely to lead to significant issues in the local area, including serious crime, harm to property, petty crime and drug dealing.

LifeMoves themselves have talked about "*curfew*" and "*building relationships with local law enforcement*". Neither of these provisions lend credence to the fact that the facility will not have a negative impact on the area. Clearly, crime and anti-social behavior IS a concern, otherwise, why the mitigations?

[6] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BR0sffdNLg&t=9458s, Mayor comment - tenants in the business park next door who have been there for 22 years are leaving. And the business park is listed for sale by the owner. 2:58:35
[7] https://homekey.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/Housing First Guidance Checklist.pdf
[8] https://osh.sccgov.org/sites/g/files/exjcpb671/files/2019 SCC Homeless Census and Survey Report.pdf

2.2.1 Public Safety Data on Milpitas



The comparable Milpitas project provides solid evidence on crime spikes. The supportive housing at 1000 Hillview Ct opened at the end of 2020. The city is seeing striking crime statistics, with total police calls increasing by 300% and total fire calls by 400% in 2022. The average police service time is close to 50 hours per month, and crimes include assault, drug-related offenses, burglary, rape, sex offender incidents, stolen vehicles, and other suspicious circumstances. Mayor Carmen and Councilmember Chua challenged the county's admission criteria, claiming that the screening process was not working and that problematic tenants and drug addictions were not being removed.

Additionally, the county had promised that they will prioritize Milpitas homeless in this facility. Yet, only 10 Milpitas homeless individuals live within the 132 unit apartment in 2022. There is no staff onsite to repair elevators, fire alarms, smoke detectors. Finally, tenants from the business park next door are leaving due to the negative impacts from 1000 Hillview Court Apartment.

Please note that this facility is a permanent housing with a screening process. The interim housing at Benton with minimal screening will surely be much worse.

2.2.2 Public Safety data on LifeMoves Mountain View

The LifeMoves Mountain View site opened mid 2021. Since its opening, the number of police calls has increased significantly, rising from 3 calls in 2020 to 94 in 2021 (7 months) and 141 in 2022. We are currently requesting more data from the Mountain View Police Department to further analyze the situation in the nearby neighborhood, based on complaints from that site's neighbors.

TYPE OF CALI (All)

LifeMoves Mountain View Leghorn Incidents

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
1				9	10	19
2		1		11	12	24
3	1			4		5
4				11		11
5			4	14		18
6			11	12		23
7			11	12		23
8			15	13		28
9			19	23		42
10		2	12	7		21
11			9	7		16
12			13	18		31
Grand Total	**1**	**3**	**94**	**141**	**22**	**261**

Number of police calls over the years

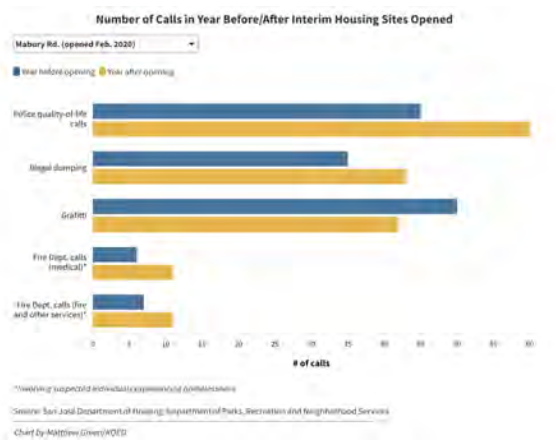
Count of EVENT NUMBER	Year					
TYPE OF CALL	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
211 Robbery			1			1
242 Battery			2			2
261 Rape				2		2
273.5 Domestic Violence				1		1
415 Disturbance			12	10	2	24
422 Death Threats			1	2		3
487 Grand Theft				1		1
488 Petty Theft				1		1
647 Drunk In Public				1	1	2
1021 Phone Call				1	1	2
1033 Alarm				2		2
1062 Subject Possibly Wanted			1	1		2
1065 Missing Person				2	2	4
1095 Pedestrian Stop		1				1
1154 Suspicious Vehicle			1			1
1182 Accident	1			1		2
1195 Car Stop				1		1
10851Stolen Vehicle			1	2		3
602L			2	6		8
7V		1				1
ATC				1	1	2
BOL				1		1
CIVIL			3	1	1	5
CPSRPT			3	3		6
FCRIME				1		1
FDASST				3	2	5
FIREINFO			34	69	5	108
FOOT			19	9	3	31
FOUND				1		1
FU		1		2		3
HS					1	1
INFO				1		1
NR-MV				1		1
PR			6	3		9
SERVMIS			2	4	1	7
SPECIAL			1			1
SUSCIRC			1	6	1	8
WELCHK			4	1	1	6
Grand Total	**1**	**3**	**94**	**141**	**22**	**261**

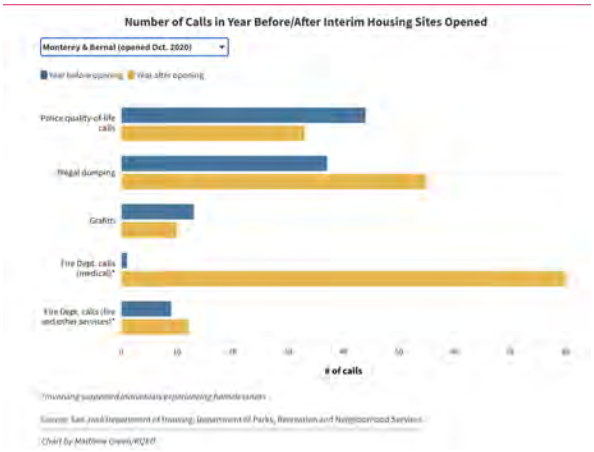
Police call by type

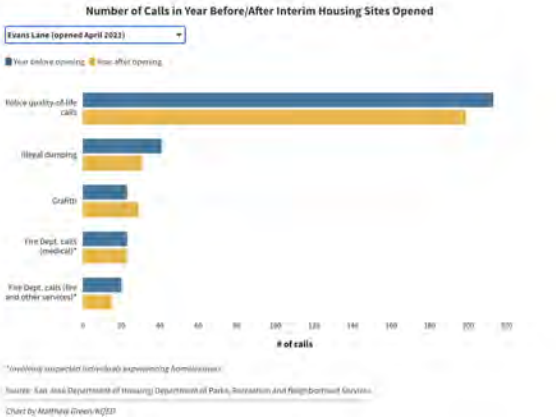
2.2.3 Public Safety Data at five San Jose sites

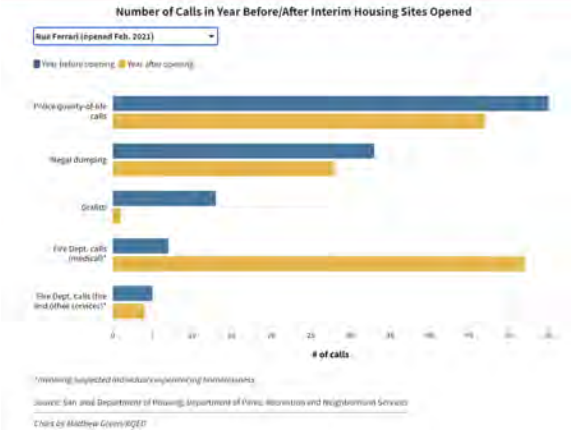
During the third community meeting, Consuelo Hernandez, Director, OSH County of Santa Clara, cited a news report by KQED[9] that complaints are down after interim housing sites opened. However, her statement is highly misleading for several reasons. Firstly, none of the five San Jose sites mentioned in the news report are in residential areas, but instead are located in industrial or commercial areas. Secondly, the bar chart presented during the meeting shows the total number of incidents for all five sites combined. One site is significantly larger than the other four, which skews the average. If you filter the data by individual sites, it becomes evident that four out of the five sites have experienced an increase in crime in one of the categories since they opened. Thirdly, the data shows that the longer a site has been open, the more crimes it generates, contradicting the notion that complaints are decreasing. Fourthly, the data presented during the meeting did not account for various types of crime, including violence, drug-related offenses, mental disorder-related incidents, theft, and felonies.

9 https://sanjosespotlight.com/santa-clara-city-expects-increase-in-homeless-residents-unhoused/









2.2.4 “There are crimes everywhere, not only at the interim housing”

To date, none of the safety concerns raised by the community have been addressed directly and seriously. Councilmember Suds Jains claimed several times that “there are crimes everywhere, not only at the interim housing” and “your next door neighbor could be a murderer or criminal”, which he stated in an attempt to justify that interim housing or supportive housing facilities are no more dangerous than anywhere else.

Councilmember Suds’ argument is a typical example of the fallacy of reversing the burden of proof. The logic of this fallacy is to shift the responsibility of proving a point from the person making the claim to the person opposing it. In this case, the community makes a claim about the crime rate or safety risk the Benton site would bring to the neighborhood, and councilmember Suds attempted to refute it without providing any evidence to support his rebuttal. This response does not address the community’s concerns and does not provide any useful information. Therefore, this type of rebuttal is a logical fallacy and there are several more examples that we will be happy to share.

2.3 Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Local Area

LifeMoves has stated that "*Clients will not be permitted to use Drugs or Alcohol on site*." The Benton site is immediately adjacent to a 7-Eleven convenience store (open 24 hours), which sells alcohol. There is another liquor store in the same plaza. It is a reasonable expectation that some LifeMoves patrons will purchase alcohol there, and then move to the nearby Earl R Carmichael Park to consume it. Experience from other locations shows that clients will also use nearby parks and parking lots to purchase and use drugs - so as to technically be in compliance with not using substances on site.

LifeMoves has stated that "*participants may be asked to leave for substance abuse that is disruptive to site services, residents or staff*". Given the high incidence of substance abuse in this population, it can be assumed that (1) patrons *will* regularly be asked to leave and that (2) being unhoused, those patrons will remain in the nearby neighborhood, specifically the Earl R Carmichael Park or the 7-Eleven plaza, a few steps away, and will continue to experience addiction issues there, with a commensurate negative impact on that park and the locality.

These are particular concerns to the surrounding neighborhood which mostly consists of senior citizens and families with small children who are looking forward to safely visiting our parks and playground. It is also highly concerning for women who wish to go for walks with their pets and children.

2.4 Site Security

In order to mitigate potential crime, LifeMoves has stated that the Benton project will have 24 hour security. However, other similar sites such as the Milpitas HomeKey also have 24 hour security and experienced on-site issues within months, including violent assault, rape, and even a murder (see 2.6 and Section 4 for more details).

Moreover, on-site security at the Milpitas site was deficient at times, as residents could not locate on-site security, and there was no one available to check in guests[10]. SafeSCC members also visited the MTV site at night and found that residents were still able to enter and exit the site after curfew.

On-site security also cannot take law enforcement action against problematic residents, as demonstrated by the Milpitas and MTV sites where residents who violated site rules were not removed and still reside on the site (refer to section 2.6 for more details).

Additionally, on-site security cannot address spill-over issues from this development to the broader neighborhood. We are concerned that LifeMoves may disregard actual security issues in the neighborhood by referencing proposed on-site security (refer to section 2.5 for more details).

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10 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sqJldTlpmU&t=2570s, start 1:31:25, Councilmember Karina R. Dominguez (who is the initial supporter for this project) visited the site one day prior to city's scheduled check, and commented angrily: There was no 24/7 security, no one there checking-in visitors…carpets and restrooms are so dirty in the 2nd and 3rd floors…no eviction for crimes. "These need to be addressed immediately."

2.5 General Loitering, Solicitation and Other Impacts

A development of 120-240 people can be expected to generate significant additional human traffic in the vicinity (friends, partners, acquaintances, business associates, etc). This LifeMoves facility has so little space (see appendix 3) that it seems clear there will not be sufficient, if any, room for guests and socialization within the facility. Further, it is unknown whether acquaintances who have a criminal background would be permitted on site or not. Therefore it is reasonable to assume we will see significant loitering in the neighborhood outside of the facility. Given the density of the area, it is likely loitering would occur either in the 7-Eleven parking lot or at the local park, which will be 600 meters away from the site.

Additionally, given the well documented addiction and social issues in this population, and the fact that drug and prostitution activity was well known at other sites currently frequented by the unhoused (such as nearby Bella Vista site), we expect to see a drastic increase in drug dealers, gangsters, pimps, and sex workers loitering in the surrounding neighborhoods. The surrounding neighborhoods currently consist of established suburbs largely consisting of families with small children.

It has been observed that LifeMoves' Mountain View site accepts families and has installed a fence and locked gate between the family units and other units. The argument being presented suggests that the presence of this fence and gate is strong evidence that LifeMoves is aware of the safety threat that single clients would pose to families and children, and that these clients are not law-abiding residents. However, in four community meetings, LifeMoves claimed that their clients can be part of the community without posing a safety threat.

The nearest grocery store to Benton will be Super Kyo-Po Plaza on Homestead and Lawrence. Given the lack of transport, we expect to see carts from the store regularly brought to the Benton Site and abandoned. This would be consistent with what has been observed at the Mountain View site.

2.6 Issues At Existing HomeKey Sites

2.6.1 Homekey Milpitas

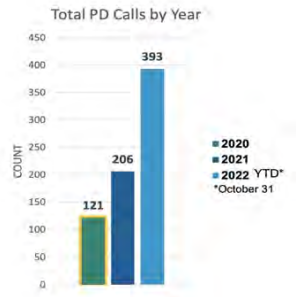
Similar concerns (crime, loitering) were raised about a recent HomeKey development in Milpitas, and those concerns, dismissed by officials at the time, have proven true. After two years of operation, police calls skyrocketed from 121 in 2020 to 393 in 2022 . Jared Hernandez, Milpitas Police Chief, said during the council meeting: “*When comparing the crime statistics, Hillview Ct will outpace any apartment complex in the city of Milpitas.*” The details of the crimes reported are listed below in the police report in Milpitas council meeting.

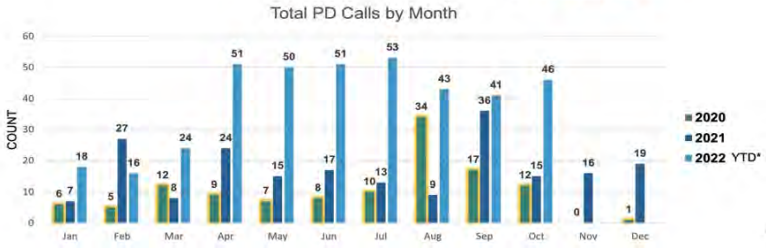
Type of Calls for Service

Call Category	Examples
Burglary/Theft	Commercial Burglary, Residential Burglary, Found property, Grand theft, Petty theft, Receive/possess stolen prop, Recovered stolen vehicle, Robbery, Stolen vehicle, Tampering with a vehicle, Theft, Vehicle burglary
Disorders	Disorder (combined events, family, fight, music, neighbor, unknown, weapon)
Drug Related	Controlled Substance, Possession, Possession for Sale, Under the Influence
Mental Health/Health	Suicide, Attempted suicide, Mentally disturbed person, Possible dead body
Suspicious Activity	Suspicious circumstances, Suspicious person, Suspicious package, Suspicious vehicle, Suspicious alarm
Violation	Municipal code violation, Vehicle violation, Violation of protective order, Weapons Violation, Traffic hazard
Violence	Assault, Assault with deadly weapon, Battery, Resist Arrest, Domestic violence, Attempted Homicide, Homicide, Rape, Carjacking
Welfare Check	Welfare check
Other	Arson, Fraud/Forgery, Sex Reg, Family Neglect/Abuse, Liquor Laws, Drunk, Gambling, DUI, Trespass, Prowling, Animal Noise, Accident, Warrants, Officer Fill, Courtesy Service, Civil Problem, Property Tows, E911 Hang-up, Registrants, Vandalism, Court Order Violation

Total Events: Past 3-Years

- Does not include Patrol Check events
- 43.3 - Average number of Calls for Service for August through October





The management and operation of Milpitas HomeKey project is also poor and problematic.

- In Hillview Ct, people with severe criminal backgrounds were admitted
- Ziploc bags of meth were found onsite
- Problematic tenants and drug addictions were not likely to be removed from the site due to State law.
- Only 10 Milpitas homeless live within the 132 units apartment.
- No staff onsite to repair elevator, fire alarm, smoke detector, etc.
- Tenants from the business park next door “were leaving, and the business owner put the property on sale because of the negative impacts from Hillview Ct.”
- As of November 2022:
    - Striking crime rate remained
    - Councilmember Karina R. Dominguez (who is the initial supporter for this project)

visited the site one day prior to city's scheduled check, and commented angrily: *There was no 24/7 security, no one there checking-in visitors…carpets and restrooms are so dirty in the 2nd and 3rd floors…no eviction for crimes*. "*These need to be addressed immediately*.[11]"

- As of February 2023:
    - Milpitas requested additional police officers to be funded by County since August 2022, but has yet to receive a response from the County.
    - Disabled occupants are stuck due to broken elevator for at least 8 months. "It goes down at least once a week", said Reeve, one of the residents.

Benton, similar to Milpitas, would be a supportive housing facility. However, Benton is intended to be used as interim housing, a stepping stone to permanent housing. Despite all of the issues that the Milpitas project has experienced, they screen residents. Since the proposed Benton site would be intended to house low-barrier tenants as soon as possible, LifeMoves will not do background checks or impose restrictions on potential tenant selection. Their only goal is to get them off the street, at any cost to the local residents. It is therefore fair to anticipate increased crime rates and disruption at or near Benton than experienced at Milpitas Hillview.

2.6.2 LifeMoves Mountain View

The LifeMoves facility at Leghorn St in Mountain View has had a significant detrimental effect on the local neighborhood. A local business owner confirmed that there has been a significant exit of business owners from the vicinity since the LifeMoves site opened. It can be seen that three commercial properties directly opposite the LifeMoves site in Mountain View are now empty.

We have also been informed that there has also been significant police activity at the site. Since its opening in mid 2021, the number of police calls has increased significantly, rising from 3 calls in 2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022. We are currently requesting more data from the Mountain View Police Department to further analyze the situation.

11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sqJldTlpmU&t=2570s, starts 2:07:35

Count of EVENT NUMBER	Year					
TYPE OF CALL	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
211 Robbery			1			1
242 Battery			2			2
261 Rape				2		2
273.5 Domestic Violence				1		1
415 Disturbance			12	10	2	24
422 Death Threats			1	2		3
487 Grand Theft				1		1
488 Petty Theft				1		1
647 Drunk In Public				1	1	2
1021 Phone Call				1	1	2
1033 Alarm				2		2
1062 Subject Possibly Wanted			1	1		2
1065 Missing Person				2	2	4
1095 Pedestrian Stop		1				1
1154 Suspicious Vehicle			1			1
1182 Accident	1			1		2
1195 Car Stop				1		1
10851Stolen Vehicle			1	2		3
602L			2	6		8
7V		1				1
ATC				1	1	2
BOL				1		1
CIVIL			3	1	1	5
CPSRPT			3	3		6
FCRIME				1		1
FDASST				3	2	5
FIREINFO			34	69	5	108
FOOT			19	9	3	31
FOUND				1		1
FU		1		2		3
HS					1	1
INFO				1		1
NR-MV				1		1
PR			6	3		9
SERVMIS			2	4	1	7
SPECIAL			1			1
SUSCIRC			1	6	1	8
WELCHK			4	1	1	6
Grand Total	**1**	**3**	**94**	**141**	**22**	**261**

A visit to the Mountain View site confirmed the presence of alcohol containers on public and neighboring properties; abandoned cars; abandoned shopping carts. Further, our representative witnessed public urination outside of the facility and was accosted by an individual on the street outside of the facility.

2.7 Post Development Operating Restrictions

We are concerned that once this development is approved, any pre-development restrictions agreed to by LifeMoves which are not legally binding and enforceable will not be adhered to. This includes (but is not limited to) capacity, tenant selection, security arrangements, curfews, maintenance obligations, neighborhood engagement.

This concern is evidenced by what has happened at LifeMoves' Palo Alto site. Because construction costs doubled resulting in a funding shortage of $8 million, LifeMoves broke commitments made and have removed 24/7 onsite security, supportive offices, and fencing. This happened within just one year of site approval.

Section III: Location Concerns

3.1 Land Purpose

The Benton location is not a vacant or abandoned land as claimed by the county. In fact, it is one of the last few places in the area where regular community and family events take place during traditional holidays such as Christmas and Halloween. According to ABC Tree Farms, the Benton land sees approximately 2,500-3,000 local families visiting each year for community and family events during the holiday seasons. This is an irreplaceable community and family tradition for local families. There are many vacant lots in the business area of Santa Clara that could be used for shelter at similar or cheaper cost. It is inhumane, reckless, and against the spirit of democracy for the city and county to force the community lot to be taken away from local residents when they have many other options available and face 90% opposition from local residents if placed at Benton.

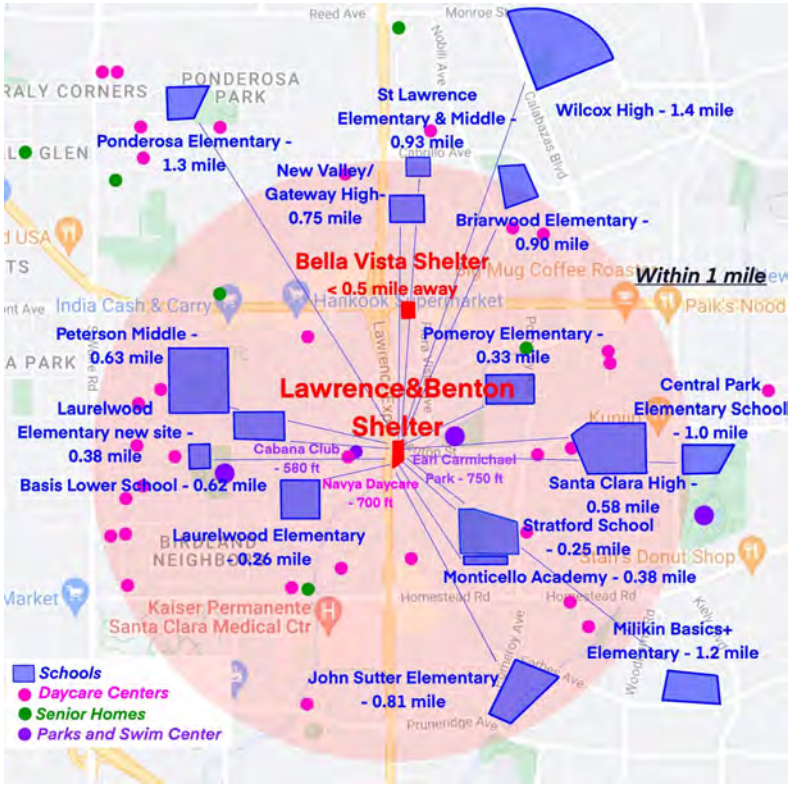
3.2 Distance to schools

There are 15 schools and at least 31 daycares within 1.5 miles of Benton location, serving over 11 thousands students and families. No other communities in Santa Clara have such a dense concentration of schools.

Allowing individuals with a variety of criminal backgrounds, including assault, robbery, drugs, attempted homicide, and sex offenses, as well as many with severe mental instability and drug addiction to reside near schools, families with young children, and senior citizens can pose a significant threat to the health, safety and well-being of the community. People with criminal backgrounds may have a history of violence or other criminal activities, putting children and families at risk of harm. Sex offenders, in particular, may have a high risk of reoffending, and living in close proximity to potential victims could increase that risk. Drug addicts, meanwhile, may engage in behavior that is disruptive or dangerous, potentially leading to violence or other criminal activity. Drug addicts and alcoholics cannot be expected to kick the habit within a couple of months. They would be better served at an inpatient facility dedicated to such illnesses.

Furthermore, children are especially vulnerable to the negative effects of living near individuals with criminal backgrounds, sex offenders, and drug addicts. Exposure to such individuals can lead to emotional trauma, anxiety, and fear, and negatively impact children's mental health and overall well-being. Additionally, children may be more susceptible to the influence of these individuals, potentially leading to early exposure to drug use or criminal activities.

It has been observed that LifeMoves' Mountain View site accepts families and has installed a fence and locked gate between the family units and other units. The argument being presented suggests that the presence of this fence and gate is strong evidence that LifeMoves is aware of the safety threat that single clients would pose to families and children, and that these clients are not normal and law-abiding residents. However, in four community meetings, LifeMoves claimed that their clients can be part of the community without posing a safety threat.



Schools and daycares within 1.5 miles radius of the Benton site



LifeMoves MTV site has a secured gate restricting other tenants from accessing families. LifeMoves is fully aware of the potential safety threat to families and children.

3.3 Distance to Job Opportunities

The county and councilmember Suds Jain claimed that building near El Camino Real will help homeless individuals find jobs.

However, currently neither the county nor LifeMoves have provided any data to show that:

1) Living near El Camino Real is crucial for the homeless to find jobs;
2) El Camino Real offers more job opportunities for individuals with criminal records, drug addiction, and mental health issues than other locations in Santa Clara city;
3) Homeless individuals can only find work near their place of residence.

In fact, the majority of the homeless population in Santa Clara lacks the desire and ability to find employment, with many individuals not wanting to work or needing to overcome drug addiction or mental health issues first.

Those who are willing and able to find work would not be limited to only one street. Many of these individuals also have cars, and for those who do not, it is more important for the site to be near a bus stop. However, the Benton project is nearly 1 mile away from the closest bus stop.

In reality, jobs such as cleaning and floor maintenance are more abundant in industrial and commercial areas than in residential neighborhoods.

3.4 Distance to Transport

This proposed location is located at a significant distance from public transport. The nearest public transport option is the El Camino bus corridor, located 0.9 miles from the site (~18min walk for healthy adults without bags etc.). This is a significant distance if one is expected to travel with children, shopping / groceries, etc, or for persons who may have other health issues.

3.5 Distance from Support Services

The Benton Project site is located in the middle of a residential community and is surrounded by residential neighborhoods on all sides (including on the opposite side of Lawrence Expressway). The site is far from the expected services and facilities that the unhoused population would be expected to rely on, including lack of easy access to locations for transportation, healthcare, food distribution, government benefits, and support services (e.g. centers for employment, rehabilitation, mental health, and multilingual services). Nearby Kaiser Hospital only serves Kaiser members except in the event of a life threatening emergency, which in most cases would be taken to a Level 1 trauma center such as Stanford or Valley.

The proposed site would isolate people in need and require them to walk to public transportation (0.9 miles away, as mentioned in 3.4) for virtually any of the above needs -- again, this would be particularly challenging for those with health issues. Their only conveniences would be access to a 7/11 and a liquor store.

3.6 Air & Noise Quality

As mentioned above, this site is located between three major roads, including an expressway, and between two major intersections. The minor intersection is used by thousands of vehicles per day, the major intersection by up to one quarter of a million vehicles per day. Per the

LiveMoves proposals, the container units would be located just feet from these roads.

We are concerned that air quality at this location may not be safe for human habitation and specifically may be particularly dangerous for adults and children with chronic lung conditions such as asthma or COPD. Effects and exposure may be exacerbated by the non-standard construction methods proposed for the development.

We are also concerned that the noise quality at this location is above a level that is suitable for human habitation, especially for a population likely suffering from trauma and PTSD, in units which will likely have far less sound insulation that might be expected from conventional dwellings.

3.7 Liquor Store

There is a liquor store across from the site, and the 7-Eleven also sells alcohol. They pose a potential safety hazard for over 60% of the residents with addiction, alcoholism, and mental health issues.

3.8 Proximity to Bella Vista Interim Housing

The Benton location is only half a mile away from Bella Vista Interim Housing. Having two interim housing projects with the "more challenging population" in one neighborhood is not only reckless but also irresponsible for the well-being of the residents and enjoyment of the community. The police have already experienced a higher than normal volume of calls from the Bella Vista site, which has only been open for less than two months. Adding another site in such close proximity will only exhaust police resources and take away resources from other residents in the neighborhood. Two sites in the same neighborhood will significantly consume public safety resources from other residents, slow down police response times, and eventually put the entire area in danger. There is no clear reason given why this neighborhood has to accept two HomeKey and interim housing projects, and why the homeless population has to be put in this neighborhood, other than ‘the property, an equipment lot, is owned by the county.’

3.9. Similar Project Locations & Facilities

Existing homeless shelters in Santa Clara County are primarily located in industrial or commercial areas, or separated from residential neighborhoods. This minimizes the impact of criminal activity and disturbances on nearby residents. However, the Benton project deviates from this pattern.

The LifeMoves Benton development is a radically experimental development without any precedent.

- It would be the first LifeMoves “low barrier shelter” interim housing in an exclusively residential neighborhood location at the center of 15 schools over 11,000 school children and families.
- It would be the first Homekey 3.0 interim housing with operation duration required to be at

least 30 years[12]. Previous Homekey interim housing operation duration is only 15 years.
● It would have the highest density of residents of any LifeMoves container development, given the large number of units and the small lot.

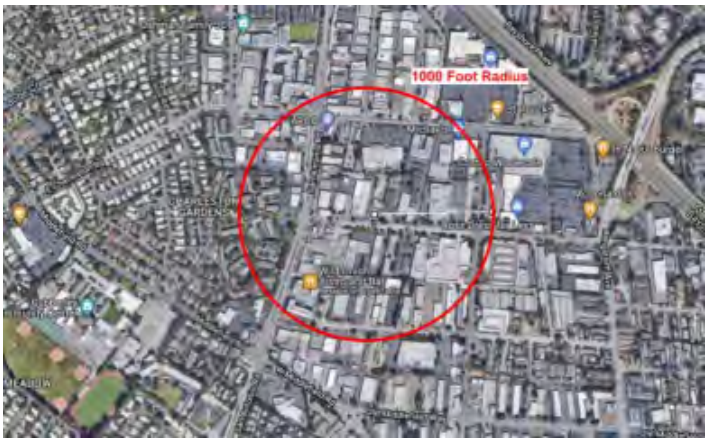
We do not believe that the Benton neighborhood is a suitable location for a novel housing experiment of this magnitude. Other nearby cities have chosen not to take a similar risk.

The aforementioned LifeMoves facility under development in Palo Alto will be located at 1237 San Antonio Road, on the edge of the Bay, in an industrial / commercial zone. The development is removed from residential neighborhoods by over one mile (on the other side of the 101 freeway).



LifeMoves Palo Alto

The LifeMoves facility at 2566 Leghorn St in Mountain View is also located in the middle of a commercial / industrial zone.

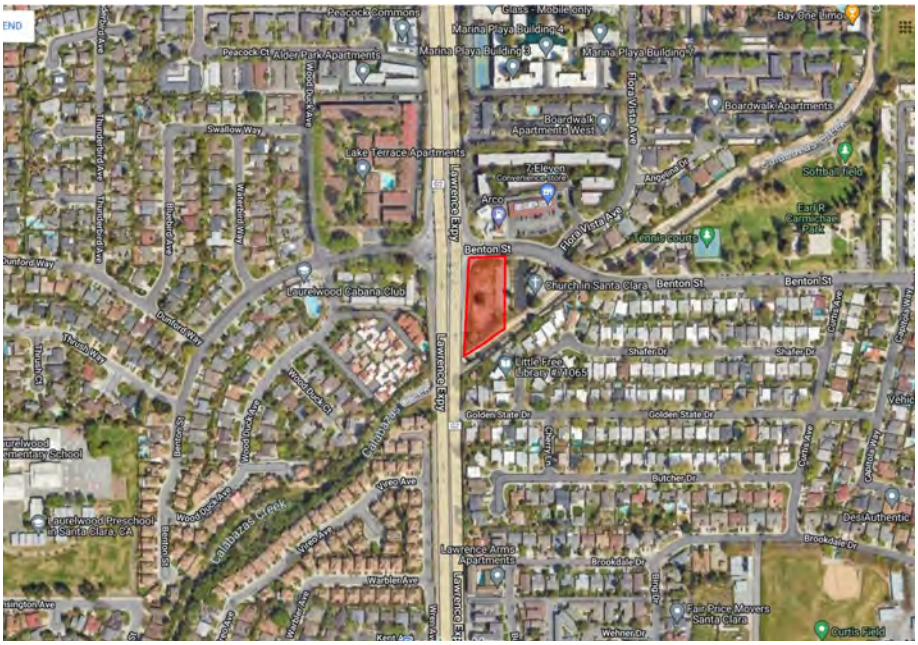


LifeMoves MountainView

In contrast to the above facilities, LifeMoves Benton would be in a very low density residential neighborhood, *immediately* adjacent to existing low density residential developments with

12 https://www.hcd.ca.gov/sites/default/files/docs/grants-and-funding/homekey/Homekey-Round-3-Notice-of-Funding-Availability.pdf

thousands of homes. The Benton Shopping Center (gas station, 7-11, liquor store, etc) across the street is the only ‘neighborhood commercial’ zoned property in an otherwise exclusively residential neighborhood.



LifeMoves Benton

Otto Lee, a Santa Clara County Supervisor and one of the County's strongest supporters of HomeKey, has expressed concern about the current site design and low-barrier admission criteria. He has stated that such a site should not be located in a residential area.

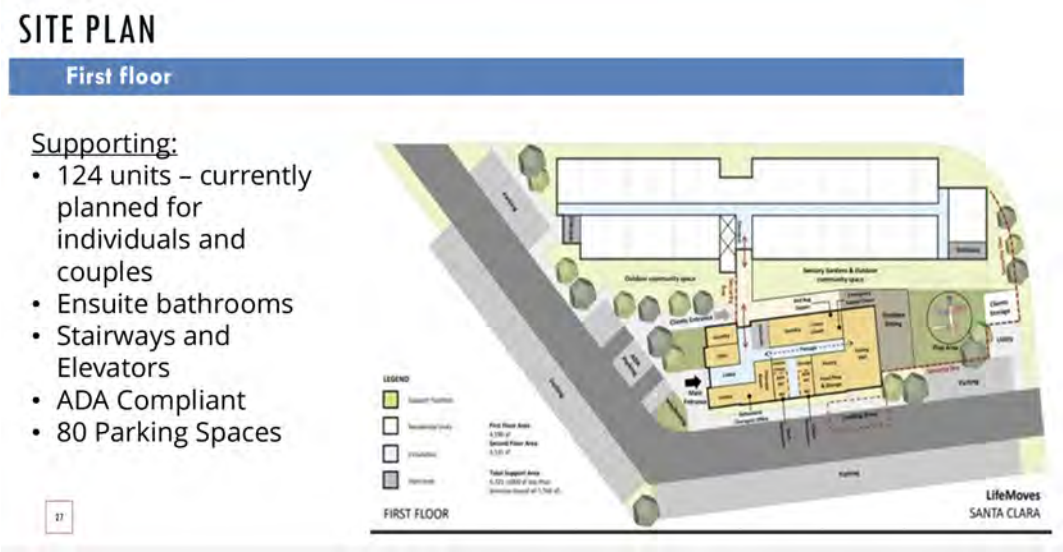
This ultra high density interim housing model proposed for Benton is unproven and LifeMoves has no experience in operating or securing such a facility. This is effectively a radical social experiment in a residential neighborhood.

Section 4: Site Specific Concerns

4.1 Site Design

LifeMoves and the county have not provided complete design plans and management policies. The only site plan[13] the community was informed is the one at the second community meeting, which missed a lot of important aspects. There are more options with few units were shared in the last community meeting, but those are the site plans of LifeMoves’ Mountain View site and Palo Alto sites without any changes to adjust to the Benton site. So it’s not clear how those options are going to be useful for Benton site.

13 https://osh.sccgov.org/sites/g/files/exjcpb671/files/2023-03/Benton_Community_Mtg_No2_Presentation_030123_incl_map.pdf, slide 27.



Those aspects include but not limited to:

- **Fence Design:** The deck presented in the second community meeting only indicated that there would be a fence on the creek side, but it is unclear if fences will also be installed on the other three sides of the site, and what type of fence will be used. The existence and design of the fence can make a difference in how the shelter could impact the neighborhood. For example, 1000 Hillview Ct, the supportive housing in Milpitas, doesn't have a fence, then it resulted in very negative impact to the nextdoor business park, leading to many businesses leaving and the owner putting the park on sale[14].
- **Entrance**: There is no clear information regarding the number of entrances to the site and whether they will be controlled. Whether or not the entrance is fully controlled is critical for the safety of the site and neighborhood. Police testimonies have stated that crimes and damages can be a bit easier to mitigate if there is only one entrance in and out of the site, and the entrance is fully controlled.
- **Parking**: It is unclear whether the 80 parking spots provided, which include the parking lot for LifeMoves staff, will be sufficient for a maximum of 248 residents (details please see section 1.4).
- **Building Height**: There is confusion regarding the number of stories the building will have. In the first and second community meetings, LifeMoves stated the building would be 4 stories, but in the fourth meeting, they claimed it could be 2 stories. Meanwhile, the Notice letter sent by the City of Santa Clara stated that the building would be 3 stories.

4.2 Onsite Policy

LifeMoves briefly mentioned during the third community meeting a few policies it planned to implement. However, these policies did not include any details on how they would be enforced. Rules that lack enforcement or penalties are meaningless. Evidence from LifeMoves' Mountain

14 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BR0sffdNLg&t=9458s, starts 2:58:00

View site showed that tenants who have conducted sextual harassment several times still stayed on the site, and site manager was not able to remove him[15].



What County has briefly mentioned on site policy during the third community meeting

It is also unclear how LifeMoves plans to conduct drug tests for its clients, as well as how the curfew policy and penalties will be implemented. Without drug tests, screening, curfews, and enforcement of its policies, it is reasonable to assume that problematic tenants on Benton will have a negative impact on the neighboring community.

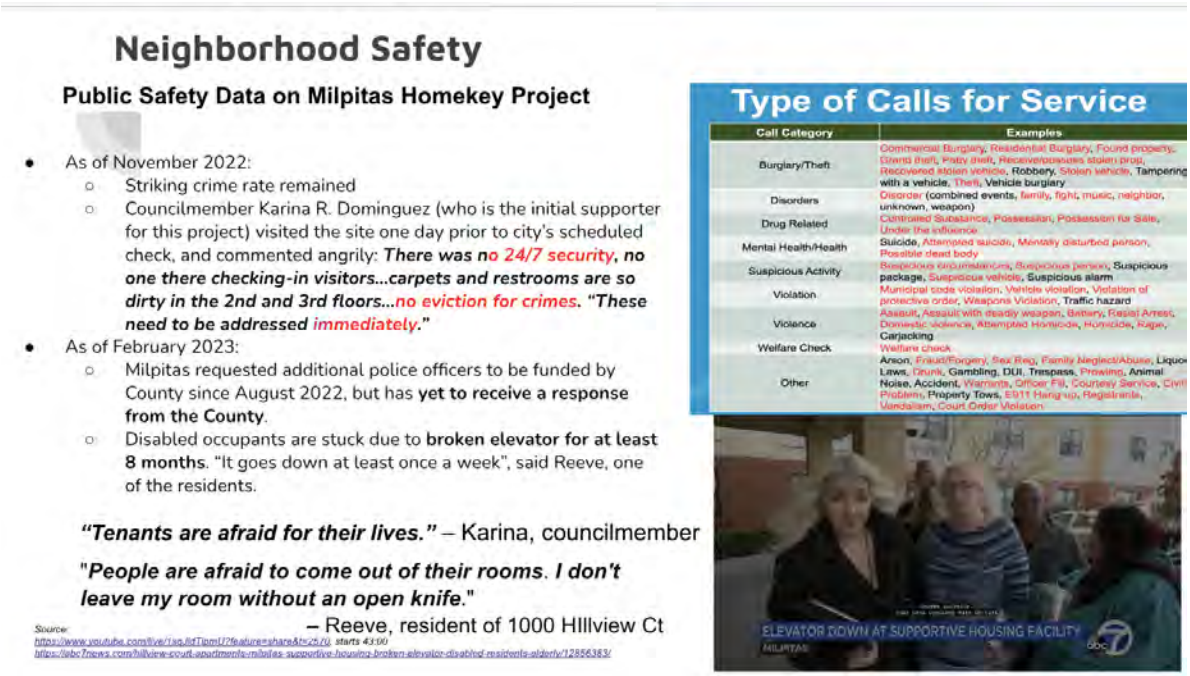
Even if we assume LifeMoves could eventually carry out execution and enforcement plans, there are still concerns about how they can guarantee that they will not repeat the failures seen in other supportive housing sites, such as Leghorn in Mountain View and Hillview in Milpitas.

The Hillview site in Milpitas is a clear example of how poor management of supportive housing can have negative consequences, even though there are well documented policies. which caused alarm in the neighborhood. Furthermore, as more people were housed in the site, the reported cases of criminal behavior increased[16]. These issues have understandably made the

[15] *https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2023/03/30/lifemoves-mountain-view-promises-to-help-homeless-clients-find-stable-housing-in-three-months-the-vast-majority-dont*
https://paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/03/30/lifemoves-mountain-view-promises-to-help-homeless-clients-find-stable-housing-in-three-months-the-vast-majority-dont
[16] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BR0sffdNLg&t=14650s

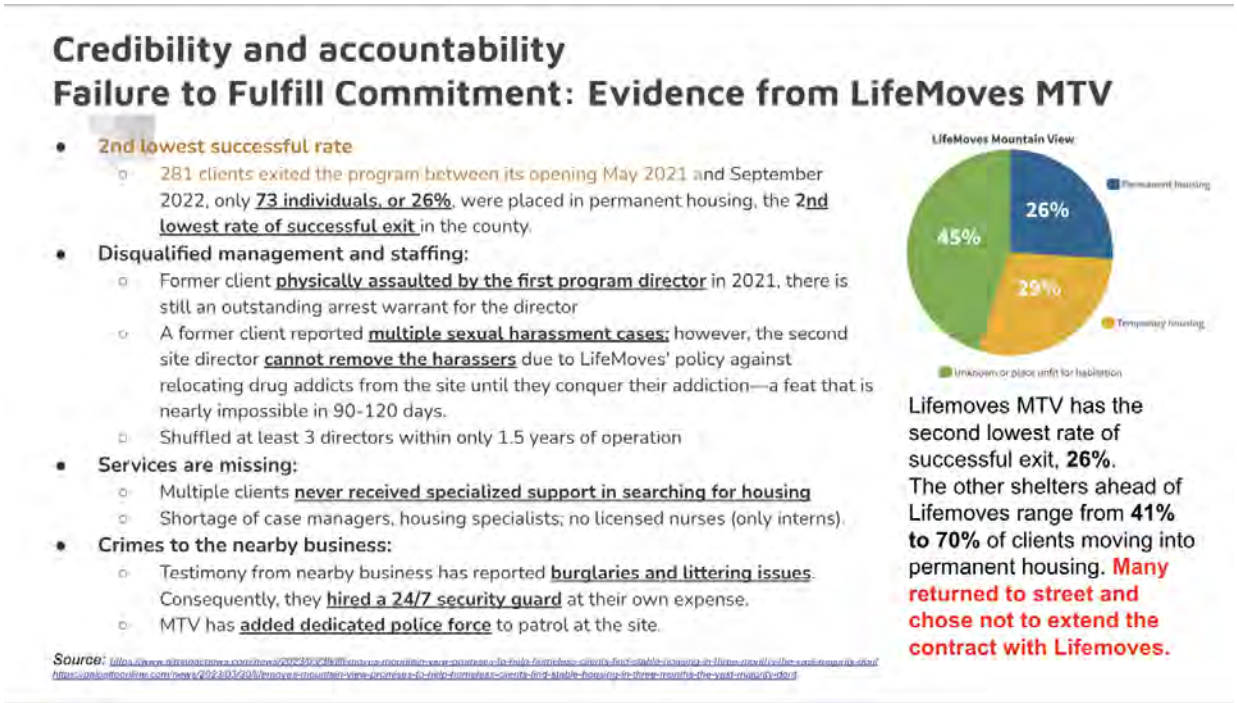
community skeptical about the potential success of the interim housing project.





Evidence on poor management for HomeKey Supportive Housing. From the presentation SafeSCC representative did in the public comment section on April 4 council meeting

The operation of LifeMoves' Mountain View site demonstrates that their policies are not being enforced. We believe the city should not consider the project until LifeMoves and the county can guarantee a reduction in the number of units, stricter screening criteria, effective security measures, appropriate doctor/nurse over patient radio, and mandatory participation in on-site services and treatments.



Evidence on LifeMoves MTV site failed to fulfill commitment to help homeless. From the presentation SafeSCC representative did in the public comment section on April 4 council meeting

Lifemoves and the county need to provide reassurance to the community by outlining clear plans for ensuring that those with severe criminal backgrounds are not admitted and that the number of residents does not lead to increased crime in the neighborhood. Without addressing these concerns, Lifemoves and the country cannot gain the trust of the community and the City should not consider the interim housing project.

4.3 Behavior outside the Site

In the third community meeting, Consuelo Hernandez and LifeMoves presented the policy at LifeMoves site. However, there has never been a discussion on how to manage individuals who do not follow regulations in the interim housing, or a protocol for removing individuals who do not follow regulations and where they will be placed.

If individuals who violate regulations in the interim housing are not properly managed, and are allowed to remain in the surrounding neighborhood, it could pose a significant risk to the safety of the community.

According to Milpitas Chief Police, many unhoused in the area prefer their space and freedom to use illegal drugs. They do not want to be in close quarters with other potentially dangerous people or have to follow rules. Tenants will spend their days away from the facility in the local parks where they can meet with their friends who are not allowed into the facility. But, Lifemoves and the county have not shared any plan to mitigate the potential safety impact on the nearby community from the proposed interim housing. The examples from other housing sites, such as

Hillview in Milpitas, where ziploc bags of meth were found in the surrounding neighborhood[17], and incidents of trespassing and spitting have been reported, highlight the need for a clear and effective plan to manage client behavior in the surrounding areas. Similarly, at Leghorn in Mountain View, the owner of an adjacent auto body shop had to clean up litter regularly. Given the proposed location of the Benton project, which is closer to residential areas than other sites, it is crucial for Lifemoves and the county to address these concerns carefully. They must have a clear and effective plan in place to regulate and manage the behavior of interim housing clients in the surrounding area to minimize any negative impact on the neighborhood's safety and well-being. Without a comprehensive plan, community trust in the project will be undermined, and the City should vote no for this project given its current stage.

Section 5: Fiscal & Developer Concerns

5.1 City Finance Implications & LifeMoves Financial Reliability

This is a new and experimental project and there is concern about LifeMoves' ability to deliver without significant impact to city finances. To date, LifeMoves has successfully delivered only one similar facility - a single story, 100 person development at Leghorn Street in Mountain view. The Benton project will be *radically* different - 3-4 stories high, on a smaller lot but occupying 200% of occupants, in a high-density residential neighborhood, as opposed to commercial or brownfield area.

Even under the best-case scenario, the Benton project would impose a substantial financial burden on the City. During the last public meeting, Consuelo Hernandez disclosed that the project would require an estimated annual operating cost of $3.3 million to $4.3 million, translating to around $55,000 per person ($150 per person per night). This calls into question the credibility of LifeMoves' and the county's budgeting and planning.

LifeMoves cannot be trusted as a responsible financial partner for the City. A similar LifeMoves project still under development in Palo Alto has seen ***costs spiral from its original estimates of $17m by 202% or $17.4m, to $34.4m***[18]**,** in just one year, leaving the city of Palo Alto with a $6 million funding gap. *It is therefore unclear who will burden the additional cost if the same occurs to the Benton project.*

Source of Funds for Capital cost	Amount
Homekey	$21,732,228
Sobrato	$5,000,000

17 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BR0sffdNLg&t=10680s

18 https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2021/11/02/rising-costs-dont-deter-palo-alto-from-pursuing-interim-housing-project and https://paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/03/30/as-costs-rise-palo-altos-transitional-housing-project-seeks-to-reduce-amenities

Total received	$26,732,228
Estimated construction cost as for March 2023	$34,400,000
Construction cost gap	**$8 millon**

To save cost on construction for its Palo Alto site, LifeMoves is considering removing the 4/7 security it once promised the city of Palo Alto, removing spaces for supportive offices, and reducing the cost of its fence[19].

5.2 Operation Cost Concerns

There are concerns among the public that the information provided about a certain project is not clear enough. Despite several rounds of public meetings, there are still unanswered questions that remain.

- One of the primary concerns is about who will cover the operation cost of the Benton project. It is unclear how much the Santa Clara city will be responsible for paying for the operation cost after the Homekey funding runs out.
- Additionally, if the construction cost exceeds the budget, it is not clear if the city will have to fill the funding gaps.
- Moreover, the public is curious to know if the county has made any commitment to financially support the shelter operation for the next 15 years.

These unanswered questions are causing anxiety among the community and need to be addressed as soon as possible to ensure transparency and accountability in the project. If the fiscal questions regarding the project are not properly answered, it could make people more concerned about the service quality and staffing in the housing project.

5.3 Concerns over LifeMoves

5.3.1 Insufficient licensed nurse

A psychiatric unit requires a minimum 1:6 licensed nurse/patient radio, 24 hours a day by California law. Yet LifeMoves recommends only ONE vocational nurse for 200 unscreened homeless tenants[20]. With 57% of occupants having serious mental issues, the nurse/patient ratio is far behind the law requirement.

5.3.2 Failed management in LifeMoves' sites

According to the latest news report, LifeMoves Mountain View site has failed to fulfill its commitment to help the homeless too. 281 clients exited the program between its opening May 2021 and September 2022, only 73 individuals, or 26%, were placed in permanent housing, the 2nd lowest rate of successful exit in the county.

19 https://paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/03/30/as-costs-rise-palo-altos-transitional-housing-project-seeks-to-reduce-amenities

20 From Brian Greenberg, on the first community meeting.

The lack of services in a community can have detrimental effects on its residents and surrounding businesses[21]. In one particular area, multiple clients have reported not receiving specialized support in searching for housing. This issue is compounded by the shortage of case managers and housing specialists, and the absence of licensed nurses, leaving only interns to provide medical assistance.

In addition, testimonies from nearby businesses indicate a rise in crime, such as burglaries and littering issues. These crimes have led to businesses taking matters into their own hands and hiring a 24/7 security guard at their own expense. To address this issue, the local government has stepped in, and MTV has added a dedicated police force to patrol the site. However, without adequate services and support, the community may continue to struggle with these challenges.

5.3.3 Staffing shortage and disqualification

LifeMoves's projects have faced serious issues with management and staffing, leading to a lack of adequate services for clients and crimes that impact the surrounding community. In 2021, the first program director physically assaulted a former client, and an outstanding arrest warrant for the director still exists.

Furthermore, a former client reported multiple cases of sexual harassment, but the second site director could not remove the harassers due to LifeMoves' policy against relocating drug addicts until they overcome their addiction, which is nearly impossible in the 90-120 day timeframe.

In just 1.5 years of operation, the project has already shuffled at least three directors. In terms of services, multiple clients have not received specialized support in searching for housing, and there is a shortage of case managers, housing specialists, and licensed nurses.

The crimes reported by nearby businesses include burglaries and littering issues, leading them to hire a 24/7 security guard at their own expense. The MTV site has added a dedicated police force to patrol the area, highlighting the severity of the safety concerns in the community.

Although Covid-19 may be a contributing factor to the labor shortage, the trend existed before the pandemic. Given the ongoing struggle to provide sufficient and competent staff at their current locations, it may be more prudent for LifeMoves to focus on improving these sites rather than opening new ones, which could worsen the staffing crisis.

21 data from this section came from

https://paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/03/30/lifemoves-mountain-view-promises-to-help-homeless-clients-find-stable-housing-in-three-months-the-vast-majority-dont

Section 6: Concerns over the Need for a New Homekey Project in Santa Clara

Bella Vista has just opened. It would make more sense to wait and see how it works out with the burden it adds to the police and the neighborhood before deciding whether or not the same neighborhood can bear another HomeKey project.

Similarly, the Braham project, the radical experiment in San Jose that is often cited by the County, just started construction a few days ago. It would be rational and wise to wait until it starts operating and see how the site affects the nearby neighborhood. Only if everything goes as the county and LifeMoves have promised, then it could be the time to re-propose another similar shelter at Benton. Otherwise, the county and LifeMoves would be repeating the same mistakes.

At the same time, neighboring cities such as Saratoga, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Cupertino seem to be making no progress on projects under HomeKey. It is evident that the taxpayers of the City of Santa Clara are effectively being asked to make significant expenditures to support solutions for other nearby cities.

Section 7: Credibility and Accountability of the County and LifeMoves

7.1 False and misleading information

County and LifeMoves have consistently provided false or misleading information (see the tables below), such as incorrect school numbers, and have confused the community with shelter terminologies. Furthermore, housing advocates who don't live in the neighborhood were invited to speak in support at all four community meetings. This has greatly eroded the trust and confidence of local residents in both County and LifeMoves. It is imperative that County and LifeMoves take steps to demonstrate their reliability and accountability before proceeding with any further actions. Residents of the neighborhood need to see evidence that these organizations are trustworthy and can be held responsible for their actions.

Community Hearing Highlights - County and LifeMoves consistently provide false and misleading information

Topic	Question/Concern	County/LifeMoves said..	Fact Check
Terminology	County and LifeMoves provided false and misinformation and intend to mislead the city and the community	"Shelter" is an old model, which is totally different from "interim/supportive housing" that Benton is proposed for.	**"Shelter"and "interim/supportive housing" are used interchangeably in past community meetings by Consuelo. They are the same thing, meaning the target population is homeless and onsite supportive service will be provided.** **1000 Hillview Ct, Milpitas is a permanent supportive housing.**
Safety	Impact on crime rates or service calls on the site or neighborhood	Consuelo said no data have showed crime would increase in and near the shelter	**> 300% increase in police calls at and around Milpitas' 1000 Hillview Ct Apartments; Consuelo attended the meeting and acknowledged the significant crime surge.**
Safety	Number of Schools Nearby	First time knew nothing about number of schools Second time counted only 4 within 1.5 miles Third time missed all the schools west of Lawrence	**15 schools with 10,483 students;** **At least 31 daycares within 1.5 miles**
Safety	Pedestrian safety concern	No one will walk passing by the location, as there is no path available for walking past it.	**Pedestrian paths in every direction. Regular foot traffic from families, seniors, couples with strollers, and students on weekdays and weekends. Students frequently visit the 711 across Benton for snacks.**
Location	Proximity to Grocery	Walking distance to necessities	**0.9 miles or minimum 18 minutes walk to nearest grocery**
Location	Proximity to Health Services	Kaiser is close by	**Kaiser requires insurance; Only emergency services without insurance**
Location	Local Homeless Folks	Homeless individuals are already present in the area. We should provide them with shelter here.	**Allocation based on queue, no guarantee of housing Santa Clara's homeless in this shelter; Milpitas facility data shows only 10 Milpitas homeless in 132-unit apartment; as of 2022, two years since its launch, only 25 out of 274 homeless in Milpitas have been housed**
Location	Proximity to bus stop	Public transportations is very close by	**The closest bus stop is on El Carmino & Henderson, 1 miles away from the Benton location, and 21 min walk.**
Location	Proximity to liquor store	Ignored	**Across the street. Research shows that people with mental illnesses who frequently consume alcohol experience worsened symptoms, leading to an increased propensity for violence and criminal behavior.**

Credibility and accountability - County and LifeMoves consistently provide false and misleading info (con't)

Topic	Question/Concern	County/LifeMoves said..	Fact Check
Data on homeless number	County and LifeMoves provided false and misinformation and intend to mislead the city and the community	MTV's homeless number dropped because of the shelter built	**Mountain view city's homeless number dropped: is because of the new RV parking restriction!** After Mountain View banned oversized vehicles from parking on the majority of city streets in 2019 and began enforcing those rules in 2022, Lieber speculated, some of Mountain View's homeless population may have relocated to areas that are more lax about RV street parking.
Data on crime rate	Impact on crime rates or service calls on the site or neighborhood	Consuelo sited KQED's news that complaints are down after interim housing sites opened. 	That statement is very misleading. **First, none of the five San Jose sites in that news are in the residential area.** They all in industrial area. **Second, the bar chart in the presentation shows** the total number for all the five sites, because one site is much larger than the other four so it skews the average. If you **filter by sites, you will find 3 out of 5 sites have increased crime numbers compared with before they were open.** This data also didn't take into account many types of crime, such as violence, drug-related, mental disordered, theft and felon crime. So to sum up, the data supporters provided in fact is exactly consistent with the milpitas interim housing data we found, which is the crime rate tripled after the site opened. The crime rate is unacceptable.

7.2 LifeMoves' Lack of Transparency on Site Plans and Impact Data

LifeMoves has failed to provide an updated plan to date. The only site plan we can refer to is the one presented in the first community meeting in February. Additionally, LifeMoves has not provided updates on site design, including but not limited to fence design, entrance design, and

security design. They have also not provided details regarding how they can enforce the site policy.

Similarly, LifeMoves has not been able to provide any data showing how many of its residents have located permanent housing, found a job, or found a job near the site. They have also not provided data showing that the site does not have any negative impact on the nearby residents or neighborhood. In contrast, we have data from the local police department and news reporters, showing an obvious crime spike and negative impact to the nearby neighborhood.

7.3 Response to Meeting Requests

Ms. Counsuelo Hernandez emailed a few members of SafeSCC that she wanted to meet with the community and address their concerns. However, some community members emailed her back several times to set up a meeting but have received no confirmation to date. According to a community member, Consuelo Hernandez replied back saying she is available, but when the member replied back to confirm the exact date and time, she disappeared again. Her inconsistency with community concerns is consistent: it seems she doesn't care about the community, contrary to what she claimed in the community meetings, and is not interested in their concerns nor listening. Furthermore, she is not respectful of community members' time and input, which is consistent in her performance, leaving hundreds of community questions unanswered to date (even questions from the first community meeting on Feb 13 haven't been fully answered after more than 2 months) in all four community meetings' invites to meet.

7.4 Discriminatory Site Selection Concern

Additionally, the neighborhood has raised concerns that the city and county chose this location due to the fact that the local residents are largely from minority populations or new immigrants. This is perceived as a discriminatory act, targeting racial minority taxpayers and voters to sacrifice their safety and interests, and may have legal implications.

Section 8: Alternative Land

Opposite to what we have been stereotyped and misunderstood as "selfish house owners", our empathetic community cares a lot about homeless people and truly want to help. We will never surrender to sacrifice community safety, yet there are alternative plans we will consider. Alternative plans that will end in a win-win situation.

We have so far identified several lands that are not in use and are convenient to job opportunities, facilities and transportation.

The City and County should continue their search for suitable lands if pursuing interim housing remains a goal.

1. De La Cruz Blvd & El Camino Real
The site is next to Santa Clara Police Station. An expansion to the existing supportive housing facility can be built to accommodate the unhoused population.



2. South Bay Fwy & Lafayette St.
There are several unused lands near the intersection of South Bay Fwy and Lafayette St.



3. Lincoln St & Civic Center Dr.
There is a piece of unused land next to Santa Clara City Hall.



4. Parking Lots at Levi's Stadium

There are several parking lots near Levi's Stadium. An interim housing can be built at the corner of one of the lots.



5. Central Expy & San Tomas Expy

There is a piece of unused land near the intersection of Central Expy and San Tomas Expy.



Section 9: Best use for Benton land

Proximity to schools makes the Benton site a potential good fit **for "rent-to-own" affordable housing for teachers** who have a livelihood in or around Santa Clara.

This "rent-to-own" affordable housing could also consider law-abiding families, whose members do not have any substance abuse or criminal records, have good credit scores and jobs to afford rent.

From:	Safe Santa Clara
To:	Clerk; Nora Pimentel
Cc:	nohomekeysc@gmail.com
Subject:	Add seven documents to 4/25 council meeting agenda on Benton Project item#1
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 1:51:35 PM
Attachments:	5. 10 Essential Facts to Know Before April 25th voting on Benton Shelter Proposal.pdf 3.Third Open Letter to City Council - Oppose Benton Project - April 11.pdf 1. First Open Letter to City Council - Oppose Benton Project - March 9.pdf 2.Second Open Letter to City Council - Oppose Benton Project - March 13.pdf 4. Petition Submission Cover Letter-Benton Project - April 14.docx.pdf 6. Ten Reasons Why Everyone Should Oppose Benton Shelter, with Data.pdf 7.LifeMoves Mountain View promises to help homeless clients find stable housing in three months. The majority of them don"t _ News _ Palo Alto Online _.pdf

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Hello Nora,

Pleaes find attached seven documents that SafeSCC requests to **add to the April 25 council meeting agenda on Benton Project (item #1)**

1. First open letter to city council oppose Benton project - March 9
2. Second open letter to city council oppose Benton project - March 13
3. Third open letter to city council oppose Benton project - April 11
4. Petition Submission Cover Letter-Benton Project - April 14
5. 10 Essential Facts to Know Before April 25th voting on Benton Shelter Proposal
6. Ten Reasons Why Everyone Should Oppose Benton Shelter, with Data
7. news article: LifeMoves Mountain View promises to help homeless clients find stable housing in three months. The majority of them don't _ News _ Palo Alto Online

Please let me know if you have any questions or encounter any issues opening the documents.

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SafeSCC.org



SafeSCC
Promoting Safe Neighborhoods

March 9, 2023

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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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**

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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
safesantaclaracounty@gmail.com

SafeSCC
Promoting Safe Neighborhoods

March 13, 2023

Mayor Gilmore, Santa Clara Councilmembers:

This is the second open letter to the 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. 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

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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

SafeSCC
Promoting Safe Neighborhoods

April 11, 2023

Mayor Gilmore, Santa Clara Councilmembers:

This is our third open letter concerning the deeply flawed Benton proposal. From the very beginning, we have persistently opposed it due to its low-barrier approach and complete lack of consideration for the community. Despite attending four community outreach meetings, our opposition has only grown stronger, as the County Office for Supportive Housing and LifeMoves have repeatedly showcased their lack of integrity by presenting false information, misleading the audience and resorting to rhetoric and astroturfing. We are attaching a list of these behaviors to this letter. Their blatant disregard for the truth is an insult to our community and must not be tolerated.

Meanwhile, more reports and data on comparable shelter sites in Milpitas, Palo Alto, and Mountain View have surfaced, revealing alarming increases in crime rates, poor financial planning, and concerning operational procedures:

1. **Milpitas** – After the conversion of the 1000 Hillview Ct apartment to permanent supportive housing, total police calls increased by 300%, fire calls by 400%, and average police service time close to 50 hours per month.
    a. Contrary to Consuelo Hernandez's claims, most of the 911 calls were about crimes such as assault, drug, buggery, rape, sex registrant, stolen vehicles and other suspicious circumstances.
    b. Ziploc bags of meth were found onsite, despite the county and management company having promised no drug onsite.
    c. At the business park next door, tenants are leaving and the owner is selling the property because of the significant negative impacts from Homekey Milpitas.
    d. Despite millions of operating expenses, occupants of Homekey Milpitas have been living in fear and some even say they daren't come out of their units without an open knife.
    e. Councilmember Chua and Vice Mayor Carmen Montano challenged Consuelo that the county had changed the admission criteria without informing the city, and their screening process is not working.

2. **Palo Alto** – LifeMoves project cost estimate increased from $17.6 million to $26 million just two months after its approval, and then skyrocketed to $34.4 million within a year of approval. City of Palo Alto is facing a $6 million funding gap and is seeking donations to close it. At the same time, LifeMoves is reducing 24/7 security, onsite facilities for supportive service, and family spaces to cover up the cost gap.
3. **Mountain View** – LifeMoves site, operational since 2021, is plagued by staffing challenges, constant staff turnover, and under-qualified personnel. With only 26% of clients placed in permanent housing, LifeMoves Mountain View has the 2nd lowest successful rate in the county.
    a. Since its opening, the number of police calls has increased significantly, skyrocketing from 3 calls in 2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022.
    b. The organization has failed to address sexual harassment and remove tenants who violate site policy, and has not fulfilled its promise to prepare clients for permanent housing.

This evidence unequivocally proves that low-barrier housing becomes a breeding ground for crime and that LifeMove consistently fails to deliver on its promises. These are not an illusion nor hypothesis. These are facts and reality currently happening in our nearby cities! Were the Benton location approved, the mistakes of Milpitas, Palo

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Alto, and Mountain View would not only be replicated in Santa Clara, but also with much graver consequences due to our financial situation and the project's proximity to residential areas.

We demand that the City Council immediately halt this ill-conceived plan. Our community's future is at stake, and we refuse to allow such a high risk to be imposed upon us. It's time for our elected officials to prioritize our safety and well-being over this misguided proposal and county's paper promises. In the last community meeting, a public poll revealed that over 80% of members opposed the Benton interim housing. Across all four community meetings, opposition consistently exceeded 80-90%. This is just a glimpse of the lengths our community will go to defend its safety. You should hear us loud and clear.

This community contains a rapidly rising immigrant demographic, who came to America for stability and opportunity. Feeling safe is our bottom line. This is non-negotiable for our community, and we will not hesitate to hold our elected officials accountable. Take heed of San Francisco, where the most liberal population in America recalled their school district board and District Attorney, signaling their limit had been reached. Do not underestimate the determination of immigrants. We have fought tirelessly to make America our home, and if our safety is threatened, we will take drastic measures and mobilize with maximum effort to protect it. The recent recall of San Francisco's officials by majority Asian American voters should serve as a stark reminder of the power of a united community.

Regards,

SafeSCC

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April 14, 2023

Dear Council Members,

On April 25th, you will vote on the Homekey project in partnership with LifeMoves at Benton & Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara. SafeSCC, a grassroot association of residents in Santa Clara, presented in City Hall today and submitted a petition on behalf of local residents who strongly **oppose the proposal**, with **5,293 signatures** collected since the proposal became public knowledge. In the 4th community public hearing, a live poll conducted by the county showed that over 80% of the community opposes the Benton project. In the other three meetings, the opposition is even higher.

We urge you to listen to the majority of residents and vote "No" to the Benton project, as numerous concerns must be addressed, including neighborhood impact, location justification, fiscal concerns, design and policy concerns, environmental issues, project justification, and the credibility and accountability of the county and LifeMoves.

Neighborhood impact:

1. According to county data, over half of Santa Clara's homeless population have criminal backgrounds, spent time in jail, suffer from serious mental illness, and over 80% have drug addictions. The low barrier design of the Benton project would allow individuals with criminal backgrounds, drug addicts, and those with mental illnesses to reside in the facility and stay in the neighborhood. These individuals will increase the likelihood of criminal activity and disturbances, disrupting the lives of nearby residents and students. This assumption is fully evidenced by the spike of crimes in Mountain View, Milpitas and our Kifer site, including violence, burglary, stolen vehicles, rape, and drug-related crimes.

2. The city of Santa Clara has not shown any signs of being prepared to handle an increase in crime rates associated with the project. Santa Clara's police force is already understaffed, and current California laws make it difficult to control or remove problematic or dangerous occupants. The increased demand on police resources could lead to slower response times and an overall increase in crime throughout the city.

3. The Benton project could negatively impact surrounding businesses, as evidenced by the recent closure of Whole Foods' flagship store in San Francisco due to public safety concerns, and the sale of the business park next to Milpitas'

site by its owner. We do not want Santa Clara to become another city that loses its businesses.

Location justification:

1. The Benton location is not a vacant or abandoned land as claimed by the county. In fact, it is one of the last few places in the area where regular community and family events take place during traditional holidays such as Christmas and Halloween. According to ABC Tree Farms, the Benton land sees approximately 2,500-3,000 local families visiting each year for community and family events during the holiday seasons. This is an irreplaceable community and family tradition for local families. There are many vacant lots in the business area of Santa Clara that could be used for shelter at similar or cheaper cost. It is inhumane, reckless, and against the spirit of democracy for the city and county to force the community lot to be taken away from local residents when they have many other options available and face 90% opposition from local residents.

2. Existing homeless shelters in Santa Clara County are primarily located in industrial or commercial areas, or separated from residential neighborhoods. This minimizes the impact of criminal activity and disturbances on nearby residents. However, the Benton project deviates from this pattern.

3. The county claims that building near El Camino Real will help homeless individuals find jobs, but there is no data to support this claim. In fact, many homeless individuals in Santa Clara lack the desire or ability to work or need addiction treatment and mental health care for the entire 4 months in interim housing. Those who do want to work are not limited to job opportunities on one street. For those without cars, proximity to public transportation is more important, yet the Benton site is nearly a mile from the nearest bus stop. In fact, there are more job opportunities in industrial and commercial zones than in residential areas.

4. Additionally, the county claims the Benton location is convenient for various amenities, but much of the provided information is inaccurate. Nearby Kaiser Hospital only serves patients with its own insurance, the closest station and supermarket are nearly a mile away, and there is a liquor store across from the site, posing a potential safety hazard for over 60% of the residents with addiction, alcoholism, and mental health issues.

5. The intersection of Benton and Lawrence Expressway is a bustling crossroads, with vehicles speeding by, posing a significant danger to individuals struggling with mental health, alcohol, and drug addiction. Moreover, the high noise levels are not suitable for residents living in the vicinity.

Fiscal implications:

- The construction cost of the project is not expected to be borne by the city. However, the cost of the Palo Alto LifeMoves' construction doubled from $17

million to $34.4 million in just one year, leaving the city of Palo Alto with a $6 million funding gap. This calls into question the credibility of LifeMoves' and the county's budgeting and planning. The operational cost of the project is estimated at $4.3 million, but it is unclear who will cover this expense.

- There are concerns among the public that the information provided about a certain project is not clear enough. Despite several rounds of public meetings, there are still unanswered questions that remain.
    - One of the primary concerns is about who will cover the operation cost of the Benton project. It is unclear how much the Santa Clara city will be responsible for paying for the operation cost after the Homekey funding runs out.
    - Additionally, if the construction cost exceeds the budget, it is not clear if the city will have to fill the funding gaps.
    - Moreover, the public is curious to know if the county has made any commitment to financially support the shelter operation for the next 15 years.

These unanswered questions are causing anxiety among the community and need to be addressed as soon as possible to ensure transparency and accountability in the project. If the fiscal questions regarding the project are not properly answered, it could make people more concerned about the service quality and staffing in the housing project.

<u>Design and policy concerns</u>:

- LifeMoves and the county have not provided complete design plans and management policies. The operation of LifeMoves' Mountain View site demonstrates that their policies are not being enforced. We believe the city should not consider the project until LifeMoves and the county can guarantee a reduction in the number of units, stricter screening criteria, effective security measures, appropriate doctor/nurse over patient radio, and mandatory participation in on-site services and treatments.
- Despite Lifemoves sharing detailed background check protocols, there are still concerns about how they can guarantee that they will not repeat the failures seen in other supportive housing sites, such as Leghorn in Mountain View and Hillview in Milpitas. The Hillview site in Milpitas is a clear example of how poor management of supportive housing can have negative consequences. In Hillview, people with severe criminal backgrounds were admitted, which caused alarm in the neighborhood. Furthermore, as more people were housed in the site, the reported cases of criminal behavior increased. These issues have understandably made the community skeptical about the potential success of the interim housing project. Lifemoves and the county need to provide reassurance to the community by outlining clear plans for ensuring that those with severe criminal backgrounds are not admitted and that the number of residents does not lead to increased crime in the neighborhood. Without addressing these concerns, Lifemoves and the country cannot gain the trust of the community and the City should not consider the interim housing project.

- LifeMoves has a longstanding issue with staff shortages and a lack of qualified personnel on their current sites. For example, their Mountain View Leghorn site never has had enough case managers. It has also changed three directors in less than two years, with the first one under arrest warrant for physically assault client and second one failing to remove drug additive and sextual assault client from site. Although Covid-19 may be a contributing factor to the labor shortage, the trend existed before the pandemic. Given the ongoing struggle to provide sufficient and competent staff at their current locations, it may be more prudent for LifeMoves to focus on improving these sites rather than opening new ones, which could worsen the staffing crisis.
- A psychiatric unit requires a minimum 1:6 licensed nurse/patient radio, 24 hours a day by California law. Yet LifeMoves recommends only ONE vocational nurse for 200 unscreened homeless tenants. With 57% of occupants having serious mental issues, the nurse/patient ratio is far behind the law requirement.

<u>Project justifications:</u>

1. There is already an interim housing facility within 0.5 miles, capable of accommodating over 100 people, cycling every 3-4 months, serving 300-400 people annually. Data indicates that Santa Clara has fewer than 300 homeless individuals, so there is no evidence to suggest the need for a similar project in such close proximity. Blindly accepting the county's pressure for this project would be a waste and disrespect of taxpayers' money and a betrayal of voters and residents.

2. At the same time, neighboring cities of Saratoga, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Cupertino seem to be making no progress on projects under Homekey. It is evident that the taxpayers of the City of Santa Clara are effectively being asked to make significant expenditures to support solutions for other nearby cities.

<u>Credibility and accountability of county and LifeMoves</u>

- County and LifeMoves have consistently provided false or misleading information, such as incorrect school numbers, and have confused the community with shelter terminologies, and housing advocacies who don't live in the neighborhood were invited to speak in support at all four community meetings. This has greatly eroded the trust and confidence of local residents in both County and LifeMoves. It is imperative that County and LifeMoves take steps to demonstrate their reliability and accountability before proceeding with any further actions. Residents of the neighborhood need to see evidence that these organizations are trustworthy and can be held responsible for their actions.

We believe that these concerns - especially the environmental, neighborhood, and site-specific issues - should warrant proper consideration by the city to **<u>reject the Benton project</u>**. In fact, should the City insist on moving forward with this project, we will demand an environmental and social impact study. Our association is currently in

the process of retaining counsel to ensure that both the City and Developer adhere to all applicable local and state ordinances for this project.

Sincerely,
SafeSCC

SafeSCC
Promoting Safe Neighborhoods

10 Essential Facts to Know Before April 25th voting on Benton Shelter Proposal

Prepared by SafeSCC

In the lead-up to the crucial April 25th meeting regarding the proposed Benton shelter, I would like to share ten crucial points that city council must know before making any decisions regarding the Benton shelter proposal:

1. HomeKey projects may be exempt from CEQA, but only after meeting specific requirements, including evaluations and reports submitted for approval.
2. Despite four community hearings, the county and LifeMoves have only presented promotional videos and Palo Alto site plans without providing a concrete proposal. They haven't answered questions about yearly operational cost, nor funding source.
3. Neither the county nor LifeMoves have presented detailed operational plans, including site policy, services provided, staffing and security measures, nor did they talk about any enforcement for those policies and plans. Additionally, the county has not addressed whether it can assign extra police officers for site patrol, a request made by Milpitas but seemingly disregarded.
4. LifeMoves, formerly InnVision, has a troubling history of failing to deliver promised services, staff shortages, security concerns, inadequate maintenance, and insufficient supportive services.
5. LifeMoves and the county have a record of significantly underestimating costs, which could lead to financial trouble for the city. For example, Palo Alto's site construction cost estimate doubled within a year of proposal approval.
6. County and LifeMoves' paper promises are not guarantees and can be broken at any time. Carefully scrutinize their proposals and evaluate whether their commitments are realistic and enforceable. Ensure that there are clear mechanisms for holding them accountable should their promises not be met.
7. Milpitas shelter’s crime rate increased by 300%, and Mountain View LifeMoves shelter’s police calls went from 3 to nearly 150 in two years. While you may argue

that these shelters differ from the proposed Benton project, the fact remains that each site faces problems, suggesting the current model is flawed and shouldn't be replicated.

8. Mental illness will not be scary only when treated in professional medical facilities with appropriate staffing ratios. California law requires a minimum 1:6 nurse/patient ratio for psychiatric units. LifeMoves' proposed shelter, with 120+ mentally ill patients to 1 vocational nurse, is far from meeting this standard. This staffing inadequacy raises serious safety concerns, as untreated or inadequately treated mental health issues, combined with drug addiction and alcohol problems, could pose significant risks to the community.

9. Situations can worsen rapidly, as evidenced by San Francisco's fast decline. Be proactive in preventing the city of Santa Clara from experiencing a similar fate by critically examining the proposed shelter's potential impact on the community, safety, and quality of life. The consequences of inaction or accepting a flawed proposal could be far-reaching and long-lasting.

10. The term "homeless" or “unhoused” is a superficial description that wrongly groups mentally ill, addicted, and criminal individuals with law-abiding citizens who have lost their homes. Housing alone cannot solve crime or heal patients.

SafeSCC urges the city council to consider these 10 points and demand clear answers and transparency from the county and LifeMoves before making any decisions regarding the Benton shelter proposal. The safety and well-being of our community and of the city are at stake.

SafeSCC
Promoting Safe Neighborhoods

Ten Reasons Why Everyone Should Oppose Benton Shelter, with Data

Prepared by SafeSCC

1) **80% - 95% local residents strongly oppose Benton shelter**: Live poll in the 4th community meeting showed over 80% of the community strongly oppose the Benton project. In the other three meetings the opposition rate is even higher.
2) **Benton location is one of the last few bustling community hubs**: 3,000+ local families visit Benton land every year for holiday events, making it an irreplaceable community and family tradition.
3) **Low barrier with minimum screening for occupants. 90% have drug addiction, 57% serious mental illness, many with criminal records, coming from jails. Sex offenders allowed. Benton shelter will be located at the center of over 11,000 school kids and families, putting their everyday life at high risk.**
4) **Striking crime statistics at similar sites at Milpitas and MTV:** In Milpitas, total police calls increased by 300%. Mountain View LifeMoves, police calls have risen from 3 in 2019/2020 to 94 in 2021 and 141 in 2022
5) **Second shelter in the same neighborhood**: Bella Vista, opened only 0.5 miles away from Benton last month and police have already been burned out by the higher-than-normal crime calls they received.
6) **High operation cost and unreliable LifeMoves' budget estimate**: $4.3 million operation cost each year paid to LifeMoves. LifeMoves' Palo Alto construction cost doubled from $17 to $34 million just one year after its approval, making it difficult to trust LifeMoves.
7) **Critical shortage of staff and licensed nurses**: State law requires

a 1:6 nurse-patient ratio in a psychiatric unit, but LifeMoves recommends only one vocational nurse for 120+ serious mental health patients onsite.

8) **Unqualified staff and failed operation:** 4 directors shuffled in just 2 years of operation at LifeMoves MTV, plus case managers and supportive services missing. The 26% success rate of tenants getting permanent housing ranked the second lowest in the county.
9) **Location selection** is far from public transit (1 mile), grocery (0.9 mile) and jobs.
10) **False and misleading data from county i n all four community meetings:** leaving 500+ community questions unanswered to date.

LifeMoves Mountain View promises to help homeless clients find stable housing in three months. The majority of them don't

The governor wants to replicate its model across the state, but client testimony and county data show it hasn't been working well

by Magali Gauthier and Malea Martin / Mountain View Voice

Uploaded: Thu, Mar 30, 2023, 9:42 am

On a sunny summer day, 61-year-old Brigitte Barron parked her Toyota 4Runner under a tree at Greer Park in Palo Alto. The trunk is packed to the brim with Barron's belongings. Her two service dogs, Dolce and Gabbana, let out shrill yips anytime another creature strolls by.

Just five months earlier, she was living in a coveted unit at LifeMoves Mountain View, an interim shelter program that aims to get clients housed in three to four months. But Barron never found stable housing while staying at LifeMoves. She eventually left the program and went back to sleeping in her car.

When LifeMoves Mountain View opened in 2021, it was a monumental milestone for the Menlo Park-based nonprofit: The site's 100 modular units were built from the ground up and launched in less than a year. The program has the capacity to serve 124 people, making it one of LifeMoves' largest shelters. The nonprofit operates more than a dozen programs across Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, including Haven Family House in Menlo Park, the Opportunity Services Center in Palo Alto and the Redwood Family House in Redwood City.

"I would say that there's a lot of excitement and pride within the city about how quickly this was rolled out," former Mountain View City Council member Sally Lieber told this news organization.

The speed at which the modular project got people off the street and into shelter beds caught Gov. Gavin Newsom's eye: He called for the model to be replicated across the state. In addition to the interim shelter, the LifeMoves Mountain View model promises its residents case management and customized support to find housing.

But after interviewing more than 15 former and current residents, as well as reviewing Mountain View city staff emails, court documents, police reports and program exit data, this news organization found that LifeMoves Mountain View struggles to keep its promises. Former staff and homeless residents, referred to as clients, say the program's opening was rushed, with LifeMoves opening before a director was in place and failing to hire enough case managers. Multiple clients said they never received specialized support in their search for housing, their grievances went unheard, and that conflict was mishandled by both program directors and staff.

LifeMoves has partnered with the cities of Palo Alto and San Jose to build two more sites emulating Mountain View's. Yet, according to county data, the program is far from living up to the expectations heralded at its opening: LifeMoves Mountain View places clients in permanent housing at a significantly lower rate than other interim shelter programs in the county, ranking close to the bottom.

'Housing is a partnership'

The majority of LifeMoves' shelters along the Peninsula and in the South Bay cater to specific populations, like veterans or single women. But the Mountain View program serves a range of clients with unique needs, from seniors living on fixed incomes and teenagers in high school, to single parents with young children, domestic violence survivors and adult couples who have lost their jobs and homes.

Located at 2566 Leghorn St., the site was made possible by a $14.4 million Homekey grant, a state program launched during the COVID-19 pandemic that provides funds to local public agencies to buy hotels and other properties to house people experiencing homelessness. Between land acquisition and construction, the project cost $25 million. The Mountain View program offers clients a private room and supportive services to help them secure permanent housing in just three to four months. LifeMoves said there's an option for residents to extend their stay by two weeks at a time if they don't find housing after four months.

A key piece of the model is meeting with a housing specialist provided by LifeMoves, who has the training and resources to help clients find homes. But out of the 18 clients this news organization interviewed, the majority said they did not meet with a housing specialist and most did not find housing with the help of the program.

Barron said it took two months for a housing specialist to give her a call when she was at LifeMoves Mountain View.

"Most of (the apartments), the waiting list was closed or was too expensive," Barron said of those that the housing specialist suggested.

When she was interviewed last July, Barron was back to sleeping in her car after living at the site for four months — and she wasn't the only one. At least six clients reporters spoke to were living in vehicles after participating in the program.

When asked why some clients never get to see a housing specialist, LifeMoves Vice President Brian Greenberg said that not every client is ready to see one when they enter the program. He said that every client is assigned a case manager, but housing specialists are only called in when a client is ready.

"Nothing makes us happier than if someone comes in one day, and a few days later they have the wherewithal and the access to

Caroline Mathangani, who moved into LifeMoves in February 2022, said her case manager repeatedly suggested she apply to apartments she knew she wouldn't qualify for because at the time, Mathangani didn't have a credit score or recent pay stubs.

Mathangani left LifeMoves Mountain View after receiving a notice that her time was up. She said she didn't bother filing an extension after being asked to leave.

"I felt like my case manager was betraying me," she said. "She had made me a promise and said, 'I'm not going to ask you to leave until we figure this out.'"

Clients are asked to fill out extension forms every two weeks and document what they're doing to work toward housing. According to LifeMoves leadership, the extensions are almost always granted if the resident is safe in the facility and working toward securing stable housing.

After moving in, each person receives a customized plan from a case manager that establishes goals and tasks for housing, employment, finance, health and education, according to a sample case plan the organization shared. Case managers are there to help connect clients with resources and get them closer to securing permanent housing, as well as give referrals to the housing specialists.

Former client Lily moved into LifeMoves in January 2022. She said shortly into her stay her case manager quit, leaving her without any case management services for about a month.

"They're supposed to be helping people find housing," Lily said. "I was there for over three months and I never saw a housing specialist. Never once did I get an appointment with one. I emailed, and I called, and I did everything I could to get in contact."

When she left the program in April, she wrote an email to her case manager that she shared with this news organization, stating that she did not receive any support to find housing in the three months she was there. She said she never received a response from LifeMoves.

Reporters agreed to use a pseudonym for Lily, a request made by many of the clients interviewed. Sources who are referred to by a first name only in this story, unless otherwise stated, are using a pseudonym.

Staffing challenges

Emmanuel, a teenager and former LifeMoves Mountain View client, said his experience was positive when he first arrived at the shelter. He quickly made a few friends and grew close to his case manager.

"(She) was the best kid case manager I've had," said Emmanuel. "She was really outgoing. She made all the kids feel like that was their home. She had a lot of activities during the holidays and everything."

But Emmanuel said his case manager eventually told him she was quitting because she had too much on her plate.

"When she quit, none of the kids had anybody for a while," Emmanuel said.

Greenberg acknowledged staffing is a challenge for LifeMoves, as is the case at many homeless services organizations.

"People can't afford to live on the Peninsula or in Silicon Valley," he said. "We have staff coming in from Manteca and Livermore and south of Gilroy, all over the East Bay."

Greenberg said the organization aims to employ one case manager for every 17 single adults living at the site. For families, the goal is about 12 to 14 families per case manager. There's also a children-focused case manager, housing specialists, benefits specialists and vocational specialists employed by LifeMoves, as well as a full-time licensed vocational nurse on-site. If clients aren't already connected with mental health care in the community, they can access care on-site through graduate-level interns pursuing degrees in psychology or social work, Greenberg said.

Former LifeMoves case manager Grace, whose name this news organization agreed to change for this story, said in an interview that she and other staff members were often overwhelmed by their caseloads.

"We needed to have at least one or two, maybe three additional case managers on-site," Grace said.

Patterns of mismanagement alleged

Greenberg said that, staffing challenges aside, anyone hired at LifeMoves goes through "intensive onboarding regarding agency policy, boundaries, professionalism (and) de-escalation."

Grace said she received substantial training when she started at LifeMoves. But she found there was a disconnect between the training she received and the level of support required to implement it. When case managers needed to make referrals for their clients, for instance, Grace said it was unclear what support and resources staff had at their disposal.

"That's probably where my disappointment came in," Grace said. "LifeMoves has been around for a while, and they've got many shelters and many sites and they're out there doing a lot of different things, but I guess it just seemed to be that each site kind of operated on its own."

Valentina Carrion, 44, who lived at LifeMoves from October 2021 to August 2022, said staffers were unequipped to handle the needs of their clients.

"I would make all the staff members have some kind of background or classes on mental illness," Carrion said, when asked what she would change about LifeMoves. "A lot of the mental illnesses were just thought of as people being lazy. … When you're homeless, you're going to have mental illnesses; you're going to have things because of trauma that you've experienced."

Despite staff receiving de-escalation training, multiple current and former clients told this news organization that they got into altercations with staff, some of which turned physical. One former client said he was physically assaulted by LifeMoves Mountain View's first program director in December 2021. Court records corroborate his allegations. In June 2022, the district attorney charged the former director on suspicion of misdemeanor battery. There's an outstanding arrest warrant issued by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office for the former director.

Citing confidentiality, Greenberg said in an interview that he could not comment on internal personnel matters but confirmed that the program's first director is no longer working for LifeMoves.

Multiple clients also trace their issues with the program back to the second director who took over after the first left.

Former client Lily said three men living at the site repeatedly sexually harassed her and that the harassers were permitted to stay in the program even after she brought it to the second program director's attention.

"I don't feel safe," Lily wrote in an April 2022 email to her case manager, which she showed this news organization. "My interactions have ranged from inappropriate comments from intoxicated men to one of them kissing me without consent."

LifeMoves Mountain View's community guidelines include a section outlining grounds for immediate discharge from the program. Included in that list, in bold and underlined letters, is "absolutely no sexual harassment."

When asked whether he knew of any unchecked sexual harassment cases at LifeMoves, Greenberg said he had not been made aware of any complaints.

Lily said she filed multiple written grievances with the program director at the time.

"She said she would take care of it; it started up again; and that was kind of the theme," Lily said. "She would talk to them and they would leave me alone for a few days, and then we'd be right back to where we started."

One of Lily's most persistent harassers was a client struggling with sobriety. The director told her she couldn't remove him from the program until he got his substance abuse issues under control, Lily said.

Greenberg confirmed in an interview in November that this director was also no longer with the LifeMoves Mountain View program, and instead was operating LifeMoves' Safe and Supportive Parking Program in Redwood City. He declined to comment on why and when she left the Mountain View program.

"We do tend to rotate around program directors," Greenberg said.

The former director did not respond to multiple attempts to contact her for comment and on Feb. 7, reporters received an automatic response from a LifeMoves email account stating that she was no longer with the nonprofit. LifeMoves Mountain View is currently on its third program director since opening nearly two years ago.

One model doesn't fit all

Adult residents in the program each live in their own unit, measuring 80 to 100 square feet, with 80 rooms for individuals and eight for couples. The rooms are just long enough to fit a bed with storage space underneath, as well as a desk and chair. They each have air conditioning, electricity, a window and a door with a lock.

A walkway through the adult units is dotted with bright planters filled with artificial flowers and leads to a communal area on the 1-acre site where clients are served three meals daily. Residents have access to an outdoor dining area, food storage, laundry machines, bathrooms and showers, a community room where classes are hosted, dog kennels, bike storage and supportive services offices.

There are 12 family units between the common area and Leghorn Street, each with its own bathroom. There's also a community room and a green-and-blue playground for children in this gated portion of the complex.

For those living in single or couple units, there are a handful of communal bathrooms and showers located in the common area, which the majority of clients said are dirty and a health hazard.

A current LifeMoves resident said they haven't showered at the site in half a year. Instead, they joined the Palo Alto Family YMCA for access to clean showers because they said the floor next to the showers at LifeMoves Mountain View were frequently flooded and that the curtains were often moldy.

Former client Lily reported to her case manager in an April 2022 email that bathrooms are frequently filthy.

"The restrooms are disgusting, often smeared with feces, and urine is all over the toilets and floor," Lily's email reads. "I genuinely feel safer and cleaner in my car on the street."

When asked about the state of the bathrooms, LifeMoves said that "the facility does house clients with serious mental illness, who occasionally present challenges to shower and toilet facilities," adding that the organization "relies on both a professional janitorial service and client chores to keep bathrooms clean."

Homeless advocate Malia Pires from Reach Potential Movement said that, from her experience working with Mountain View's unhoused community, transitional housing programs like LifeMoves can be "a hard sell" for people who are used to controlling their own environment.

"They're downsizing, if they're living in an RV, into a smaller unit," Pires said of the LifeMoves program. "A big one that we hear, a reason people don't want to move into the program, is because they really want to be able to make their own food and have a greater measure of independence. And so they feel like they're going to be losing some of that if they move into the program."

When commenting on LifeMoves Mountain View's approach to client safety, Greenberg said that the program caters to many different types of people.

"They're co-ed environments," Greenberg said. "The people that come in are frequently fragile, and as you can imagine, traumatized by years on the street."

For this reason, Greenberg said, certain rules must be in place and apply to everyone to ensure the facility is "completely safe for the most vulnerable residents at all times."

But for current client George, those rules make him feel stereotyped, as if being unhoused means he is "a violent criminal or a drug addict or capable of a suicide." But he said he follows the rules closely to keep a roof over his head.

"The way the rules are set up, I would characterize my being here less as a client and more of an inmate," George said.

Income, a pivotal factor for success

Grace said some of her clients, especially those who had jobs, were able to find housing with the help of LifeMoves.

She said one client found part-time work at a Ross department store down the street from the site after being laid off. She started contributing to the housing fund LifeMoves maintained for her. Eventually, she got hired back at her old job and saved up enough to find permanent housing.

Carolyn, a former client, started her stay at LifeMoves in November 2021. She said LifeMoves gave her and her children a safe place after they escaped domestic violence.

When she came to the shelter, Carolyn said she already had a job and a good credit score. She just needed help finding housing she could afford as a single mom, with enough space to accommodate her kids.

Carolyn benefited from mental health therapy while she was at LifeMoves, which she called "the best I've ever received." She had a case manager as well as a housing specialist, whom she met with on a weekly basis and ended up helping her find the apartment she still lives in today.

"At times I felt like giving up," Carolyn said, who described sometimes seeing 20 apartments in one weekend. But having a housing specialist in her corner made it a lot easier.

"Feeling empowered and just having somebody guide you through all of this when you've never had to do it yourself, it really helped me not be so overwhelmed," she said.

But Carolyn said her stable job and a good credit score were also pivotal factors to finding housing.

"Some people don't have that," Carolyn said. "(LifeMoves) can't turn your world or remove your trauma. They just provide the resources and you do what you can with them."

Greenberg acknowledged that when a client is dealing with underlying challenges, like poverty, trauma or mental health issues, it can be harder for them to find success with the program. But, he maintained, "We want to get people housed as quickly as possible, regardless of the challenges."

Yet Grace said sometimes those barriers become so high that they're insurmountable.

People need a stable income and savings to be approved for most housing, she said. But some clients may not physically be able to work. Others face mental health challenges that prevent them from holding down jobs, or are too elderly to work. Others are at risk of losing their Social Security benefits if their income gets too high.

"Three-to-four-months, tops, is the goal for people to come in, kind of get settled, get situated, save their money," Grace said. "But the reality is not every client is going to fit that mold."

By the numbers

While some residents are able to meet the goals of the program, the data shows that a majority of clients leave LifeMoves Mountain View without finding stable housing. Exactly how many is unclear because data provided by LifeMoves is not consistent with Santa Clara County data.

According to LifeMoves, out of 219 clients who exited the program, 95 individuals, or about 43%, transitioned into stable housing between the site's opening in May 2021 and the end of June 2022.

Data provided by Santa Clara County showed 281 clients exited the program between its opening and September 2022, and that only 73 individuals, or 26%, were placed in permanent housing.

LifeMoves attributes this discrepancy to differences in how the county and the nonprofit categorize their data and define stable housing, as well as the county data representing a slightly longer time frame. LifeMoves Director of Community Engagement & Public Affairs Ben Biscocho said some housing situations that are considered a "temporary destination" by the county may be considered "stable" by LifeMoves, such as people who stay with family or friends or go into residential treatment programs.

"Although temporary, these exits reflect clients working towards stability through reconnecting with loved ones and sobriety, among other things," Biscocho said.

LifeMoves leadership added that across its 26 locations in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, families generally have a higher success rate in getting housed than single adults or couples. They said that "82% of our families and 65% of all clients engaged in

When asked for a data breakdown for families versus singles adults or couples at the Mountain View site specifically, the organization would not provide it for this story.

Data discrepancies aside, the county's numbers also show that LifeMoves Mountain View's rate of getting clients into stable housing is significantly lower than similar programs in Santa Clara County.

At 26%, LifeMoves has the second lowest rate of individuals who exit to permanent housing out of eight noncongregate shelters identified in the county's dataset, which included Santa Clara County programs that utilize "tiny homes or similar models," such as converted hotels. The six shelters ahead of LifeMoves range from 41% to 70% of clients moving into permanent housing. The only program that performed below LifeMoves Mountain View in the county's dataset is the HomeFirst Bridge Housing Community program on Felipe Avenue in San Jose, with 24% of clients exiting into permanent housing.

When asked about LifeMoves' relatively low success rate compared with other county programs, Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian said it's "awfully tough to compare and contrast different shelters with different models and different populations in different communities."

"It's hard to make that apples-to-apples comparison," he said.

According to public records obtained by this news organization from the city of Mountain View, LifeMoves leadership is aware that the site's rate of getting clients into permanent housing is low. In an internal email, LifeMoves CEO Aubrey Merriman acknowledged concerns about how the Mountain View site was performing. That email was eventually forwarded to city staff, making it a public record.

After receiving an email last May from a Mercury News reporter inquiring about LifeMoves' exit data and asking to interview program participants, CEO Merriman forwarded the email to LifeMoves leadership, warning that "there is always a risk involved when you put a microphone in front of a client," and that there was "additional risk that our Mountain View exit statistics might be a little underwhelming given the excitement and expectations attached to the site when it first opened."

Merriman wrote, "I wouldn't be surprised if the subtle angle here is that (with) all this buzz about these modular projects the outcomes aren't dramatically better," adding, "I'm speculating here."

Merriman did not agree to be interviewed for this story, despite more than a dozen requests made over the course of three months.

What comes next

Shortly after the Mountain View site opened in 2021, Merriman said the nonprofit's long term vision is to have 10 interim shelter sites across the Bay Area, with an ultimate goal of solving the region's homelessness crisis. The nonprofit created a playbook that outlines how it developed and built LifeMoves Mountain View, and how other jurisdictions can do the same in their communities.

LifeMoves currently plans to open at least three more interim modular shelters modeled after the Mountain View site. The nonprofit has partnered with the cities of Palo Alto and San Jose, with plans to use $78.1 million in Homekey funds this year to build two more interim housing communities, totaling 292 units.

LifeMoves leadership told this news organization that one lesson they've learned from the Mountain View site is that it's better to build up: The organization is planning a three-story shelter in Palo Alto, leaving more open space for residents, whereas the Mountain View shelter is constructed as a single-story facility. Though the shelter was initially estimated to cost around $17.6 million, that figure has incrementally increased, most recently to about $32 million for construction alone.

LifeMoves, the city of Redwood City and San Mateo County are also close to completing a 240-unit, modular, multi-story navigation center on 2.5 acres of land that broke ground last April. The project received $55.3 million in Homekey funds from the state.

Santa Clara County and LifeMoves are also proposing an interim shelter site using Homekey funds in the city of Santa Clara. That project is still going through the public input process and hasn't been approved yet.

Meanwhile, Mountain View and Santa Clara County continue to fund the existing LifeMoves Mountain View program, each pledging $2.4 million for operational costs over the next two years.

Former case manager Grace said the lack of affordable housing in Mountain View and the greater Bay Area was a major hurdle to her ability to help clients succeed. For clients who were unemployed, she cobbled together various forms of financial aid so they could qualify for the few affordable units available. And even those who worked full time jobs struggled to make enough to afford a place of their own.

"For a lot of clients that were coming in, I think for many of them, they probably just had these expectations that, 'Oh well, there's already housing already set up. And I'll just be here for a little bit. And then from there, they're going to recommend me to whatever affordable housing situation is out there,'" Grace said.

Vice President Greenberg emphasized that LifeMoves is a "housing-first" model, and the goals that clients are given reflect that overarching objective. In a sample case plan that LifeMoves shared, the first bullet point atop a list of 12 distinct goals is "Client will obtain stable housing."

But out of the 18 clients who were interviewed for this story, the majority were unable to meet that goal. At the time of publishing, reporters could only confirm one client who became housed with the help of LifeMoves. Some are still participating in the program. Others found a home on their own after leaving.

Among them is Mathangani, who lives in a room in a shared house in Santa Clara that she found herself. Lily said she had to move out of state to use a housing voucher that she secured on her own. And when reporters last spoke to Barron, she and her protective pups were still living in their packed SUV.

This is a multi-part series. In the next installment, reporters investigate the barriers that make it challenging for programs like LifeMoves

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From:	J Pan
To:	Clerk; NPimentel@santacalaraca.gov; Lisa Gillmor; Kevin Park; Karen Hardy; Kathy Watanabe; Raj Chahal; Sudhanshu Jain; Anthony Becker; Adam Marcus
Subject:	Add to 4/25 council meeting agenda on Benton Project (item #1)
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:40:03 AM

Dear Mayor Glimore and City Councilemenbers,

Please vote NO to the Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter proposal.

I am a mother with two elementary school kids living in the City of Santa Clara. My whole family opposes the proposed Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter Plan because LifeMoves, who supervises the project, has a very bad record of running other homeless shelters in nearby cities. There is no plan that LifeMoves would improve and supervise the Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter project better than similar projects. That is why we are deeply concerned about the Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter project, which will impact our communities badly.

LifeMoves supervised similar shelter projects in the nearby cities, and they created very poor records in achieving projects' goals. For example, the construction cost estimate of LifeMoves' Palo Alto shelter was doubled within a year after the approval date, however, the average inflation rate in the past three years was 5%-7% per federal and state government's reports. Does this unreasonable construction cost increase indicate LifeMoves is losing control of their projects? The intention of shelters is to provide a safe place for many homeless people to live. However, LifeMoves kept harassers in the Mountain View shelter despite repeated sexual harassment reports per *Almanac News, Mountain View Voice*. How can they achieve the purpose of the project by keeping the harassers in the shelters and leaving well-behaved homeless people out of the shelters due to the threats by harassers.

Per local news, the success rate of LifeMoves' shelters is only 26%, and they lack qualified staff and nurses to operate their existing shelters even though the shelters have not reached their full capacities up to now. How can LifeMoves provide qualified service for the existing shelters during national-wide labor shortage and has resources to operate new shelters? Without resolving the problems with the existing shelters but rushing to construct another new bigger shelter will only make the problems worse. We are afraid the proposed Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter Plan will be another non-successful project by LifeMoves, taxpayers will be very disappointed and will vote for another party's candidates.

LifeMoves needs to provide taxpayers a plan and put it into action to improve their supervision by demonstrating their ability to provide quality of service with a timeline, within budget for at least one existing shelter. LifeMoves should resolve their existing problems first, before acquiring any new projects.

There is another shelter with a full capacity of 536 people per year in the City of Santa Clara approximately 0.5 miles from this location. The existing shelter is not full yet, why is there a need to build another bigger shelter in this area?

The City of Santa Clara is facing a fiscal deficit. Our city libraries are only open half-day on weekdays and are closed on Sunday to cut expenses. As a working mother, weekends and evenings are the only time I can bring my kids to city libraries. The libraries in nearby Cities, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, San Jose, etc., open 7 days a week and full day on weekdays. Our public facilities, such as swimming pools, need to be repaired and maintained but do not have funding to schedule such work per the Santa Clara swimming facility staffs' comments at the City Council Meeting on April 11, 2023. With such a bad fiscal deficit, should our tax dollars be well spent and balanced between meeting existing residents' needs and building more homeless shelters?

It is a sad fact that the crime rate increased significantly after the opening of the existing shelters in their communities with a good intention of residing homeless people in residential areas and providing them access to all kinds of community services. Does the City of Santa Clara have any plan to prevent the increase in the crime rate in our community with a new shelter? Does the City of Santa Clara have a budget to enhance the manpower of first responders, law enforcement, first aids, street sanitation, etc.?

Where can the City of Santa Clara find funding for the operation of many shelters and mitigating negative impacts to our communities? Who will take responsibility for over budget, increase of crime rate, and shortage of public resources if the project was approved?

Is there any agency evaluating the quality-of-service LifeMoves provided? Have you set up explicit evaluation standards, procedure, and schedule? Is there any consequence for LifeMoves to take for their poor supervision leading to low performance of the shelters? Is there possible any circumstance that the City will close the shelter in the future? For example, if the crime rate including burglaries, break-in, fire, harassment, sex offense, and drug related violation increases 50% after the opening the shelter within 1.5 miles of radius of the shelter; or the shelter will be closed if the success rate are all lower than 50% for three consecutive 90-days terms; or the shelter will be closed if its cost increased 50% more than budget.

We voted for our city council members in the trust that we would work together to make the City of Santa Clara a better place to live. We hope the city council members vote based on Facts instead of Promises.

We really appreciate it if you address our concerns for the Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter Plan project clearly at the public hearing on April 25, 2023.

Please vote NO to the homeless shelter plan at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway! Thank you!

Best Regards,

Pan Family

Residents of Santa Clara

From: carole baldwin
To: Clerk
Subject: Benton Project
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 1:53:29 PM

I have lived in the City of Santa Clara my entire life. I just recently retired from my law enforcement job.

I have several concerns about LifeMoves putting a shelter on the corner of Benton and Lawrence. There are many schools located with a mile of this location. Multiple council members have claimed that 'students won't have to walk past the facility'. This is incorrect. They also stated that they are not concerned about the safety of high school-aged children walking past the facility. They claim that high school children are 'old enough'. They have no concerns about the children walking past on their way to the local swim club.
- The majority of people concerned about the shelter/interim housing are women and seniors. Women fear for their own safety and the safety of their children. Men have a better chance of not being attacked and being able to defend themselves.
- Initial claims are that more than 800 homeless are 'associated' with Santa Clara, yet the county refuses to provide the data or explain how they arrived at this number
- Initial claims that Santa Clara homeless will have priority. However, other cities have confirmed this promise has not been fulfilled and the county uses VISPDAT standards
- Requests were submitted to the county for additional details/facts surrounding the PIT survey and County claims. The county declined to provide the information.
- Actual crime data at other similar locations was requested but not provided. Instead, they provided a media outlet analysis. Residents were forced to submit their own public records requests, which disclose significant increases in police/fire calls at existing interim housing and permanent supportive housing facilities.
- Council members do not appear to be representing their constituents, leading to concerns about relationships with developers and non-profits/NGOs
- Public records (police/fire) data provided by citizens is treated as unsubstantiated and refuted by council members, non-profits, and developers
- Multiple studies show that crime increases and property values decrease near shelters, interim housing, permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing. All parties supporting the proposed project claim there is no increase in crime and no decrease in property values.
- Multiple council members have told residents to find alternative properties for the project, putting the burden on the residents/constituents.
- Multiple council members have told residents to provide minimum requirements for the project, putting the burden on the residents/constituents.
- Multiple residents inquired whether or not other properties were evaluated, and if so, which ones and why not. The county stated that other properties were evaluated but the Benton and Lawrence property provides better access to services. 'The Benton and Lawrence site was identified by the County as an underutilized parcel that could be made available for interim housing. The County does not own any other property in the City of Santa Clara that is available to be used for interim housing. In addition, several factors were taken into consideration when making the recommendation for this site including the size, proximity to transit, grocery stores and medical services, and that the site is vacant.

I'm so disappointed in my council members. Council Member Becker was just arrested for perjury which is a difficult crime to prove. The County of Santa Clara District Attorney felt there was more than enough information to do so.
After reading the indictment, it read that many other Santa Clara Council Members have been dishonest and that they have an inappropriate relationship with the 49ers.
I have no confidence in this City Council to make appropriate decisions about developments or projects that will affect the citizens of Santa Clara.

Sincerely Submitted Birdland Citizen

From:	Rui Diao
To:	Clerk; Nora Pimentel
Subject:	for 4/25 council meeting on Benton project (item #1)
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:05:57 AM

Hi

Please read this report: https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/09/25/tiny-homes-and-homelessness-what-the-data-shows/#:~:text=But%20tiny%20homes%20work%20better,much%20more%20expensive%20to%20operate.
Key summary is this:
Title: Do tiny homes really work as a solution to homelessness? Here's what the data shows

The Bay Area News Group spent four months following several tiny home residents and analyzed three years of data from Santa Clara and Alameda. Their analysis found:
Tiny homes don't work for most participants: People moving out of tiny homes in Alameda County failed to find permanent housing nearly three-quarters of the time between June 2019 and June 2022. In Santa Clara County, people failed to find permanent housing more than half of the time.
But tiny homes work better than traditional homeless shelters: Stays in the two counties' largest dorm-style homeless shelters failed to lead to permanent housing between 84% and 98% of the time. Tiny homes also tend to offer more services than other shelters, but as a result, can be much more expensive to operate.
More support helps: The data suggests there are several things tiny home programs can do to up their odds of success, although all of them boost costs – including connecting residents to case workers and giving them access to private bathrooms. Allowing people more time to get back on their feet also can help, as participants who stay longer than six months are more likely to move into permanent housing. But most tiny home programs are set up for stays of just two to six months.
It all comes back to the affordable housing shortage: There just isn't enough permanent housing available for everyone leaving a tiny home. Bay Area rents are among the highest in the country and wait lists for subsidized units and housing vouchers are discouragingly long.

With this, how do we know we are going to do a good job with Benton shelter?

Best regards,
Rui

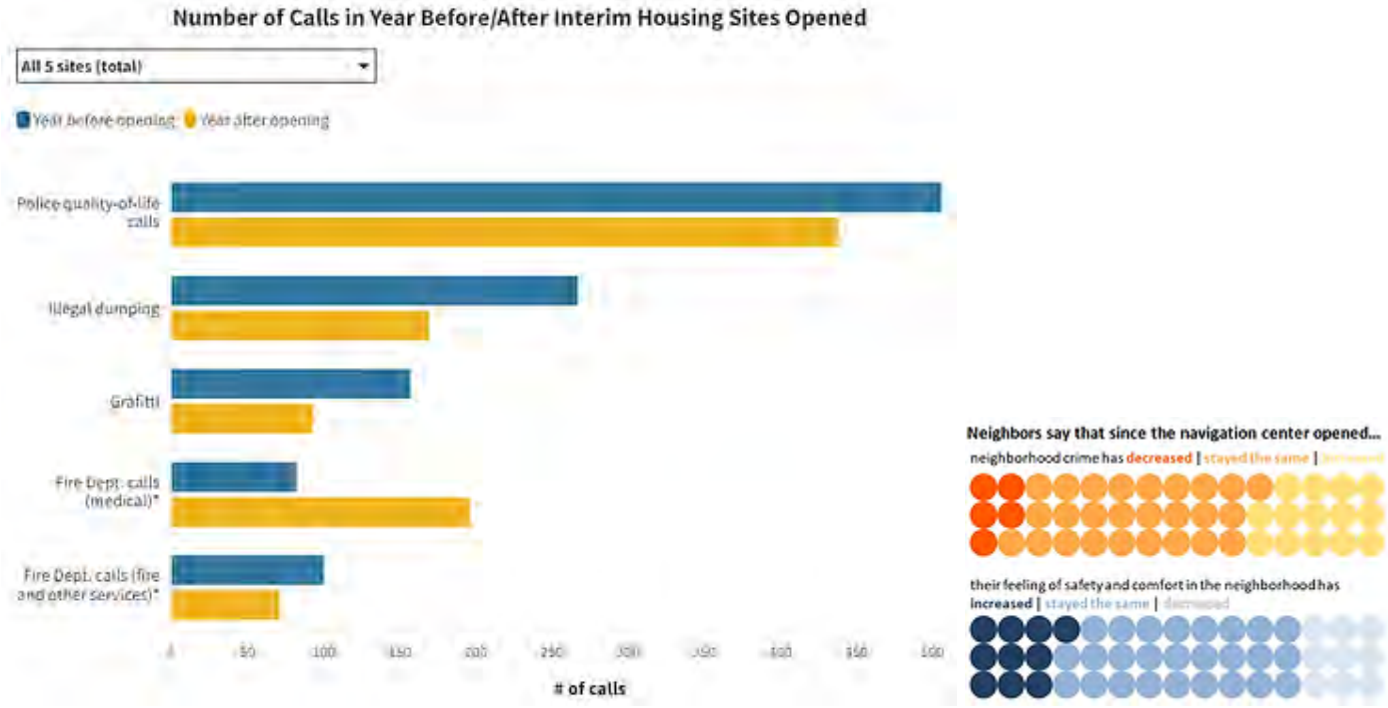
From: Santa Clara Housing Advocates
To: Clerk
Subject: For April 25
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:01:26 PM
Attachments: Reasons April 25.pdf
Support 4_19.pdf

Please include these documents in the packet for April 25

Santa Clara Housing Advocates

We support low-barrier interim housing in our neighborhood

Safer for Everyone: Data collected from 5 projects in San Jose show that the number of emergency calls in the area around interim housing sites went down in every category except health. Getting people off the street and into shelter means public incidents are contained to an area with support staff who can mitigate any real or perceived danger. Multiple sources state that unhoused people are more likely to be the victims of crime than perpetrators. Providing the unhoused with housing is shown to bring down chances of crime and sickness.



*https://www.kqed.org/news/11942734/emergency-calls-complaints-are-down-near-san-joses-temporary-housing-sites-so-why-are-they-still-so-politically-risky

*https://hsh.sfgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Navigation-Center-Neighborhood-Impacts-Final-Report-1.pdf

Additional Sources: American Academy of Clinical Psychiatrists: A Longitudinal Study of Housing Status and Crime in a Homeless Population, Enterprise: Chico State Studies Finds Safe Space Shelter Didn't Impact Neighborhood Crime, UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy: Navigation Centers: What do Neighbors Have to Fear?, National Low Income Housing Coalition: New Study Finds that Providing People Experiencing Homelessness with Housing has Positive Impacts on Health, Crime, and Employment, Mayor Matt Mahan of San Jose: Groundbreaking

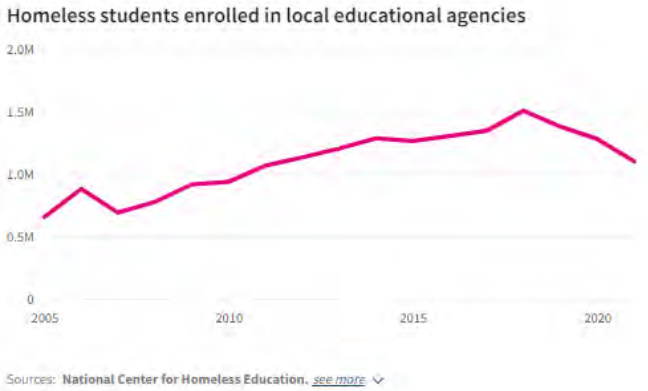
The Kids are Alright: Encountering and engaging with people different from ourselves is a good thing. It leads to creating more compassionate, empathetic members of our community. Different life experiences, like financial situations, cultures, religions, and genders, are all valuable for understanding our world. Unhoused or homeless families are in schools across Santa Clara Unified. Your kids might already know homeless people and not even realize it. Parents can use age appropriate language to explain this building and the people within it to their kids.

5. Treat people the same way you would want to be treated

Everyone's personal experience with housing and homelessness is different. Laketha Pierce, a mother of three who has experienced homelessness in her native San Francisco, leans on the golden rule: Treat others how you want to be treated.

1. **Unsheltered people are no more likely than sheltered people to harm children.**

The vast majority of adults who abuse children are in a position of trust – family members, clergy, coaches, etc. Ninety-three percent of children who are sexually abused know their abuser personally, according to the **Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN).** The notion that unhoused people present a greater danger to schoolchildren than anyone else is factually incorrect, stigmatizing, and harmful.



*https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/housing/tips-and-advice-for-talking-to-your-kids-about-homelessness/article_23c01e44-557f-11ed-a71b-cf9f5d81059a.html
*https://www.acluwv.org/en/news/five-reasons-why-we-dont-need-ban-homeless-services-near-schools
*https://usafacts.org/data/topics/security-safety/child-care-and-safety/child-welfare/homeless-students-enrolled-in-local-educational-agencies/

Additional Sources: ACLU West Virginia: Five Reasons Why We Don't Need to Ban Homeless Services Near Schools, HumanKind: Raising Empathetic Humans: Four Tips for Talking to Kids About Homelessness, Scary Mommy: What Happened When A Homeless Shelter Moved Into My Upper Class City Neighborhood.

Good Location: With grocery stores, convenience stores, parks, a hospital, and churches all within a mile or less walking distance, the proposed location is ideal for a population that may not have access to personal transportation. Placing a facility like this in an industrial district would make it impossible for residents to meet their basic needs. The county already owns this land, making it less expensive to obtain. It is currently under used, only occupied for 3 months out of the year. There are several other places in the county for seasonal activities. Research suggests that, "shelters should be located in areas that are accessible to guests such as a central location in proximity to other services. Common political expectations that homeless needs may be served in other regions of the city do not fully grasp the inescapable need for accessibility. " (Canadian Journal of Urban Research)

Additional Sources: Canadian Journal of Urban Research: Conceptualizing Optimum Homeless Shelter Service Delivery: The Interconnection Between Programming, Community, and the Built Environment, American Journal of Health Promotion: Shelter Environment and Placement in Community Affects Lifestyle Factors among Homeless Families in Minnesota, American Enterprise Institute: The Importance of Place: Neighborhood Amenities as a Source of Social Connection and Trust, Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless: Transportation and Homelessness: A Systematic Review, Kaiser Health Network: Finding Homeless Patients A Place To Heal

Limited Neighborhood Impact: Unlike dorm-style shelters, which are being phased out, this facility will not have people lining up all day hoping to get a spot. Individual units with locks on the doors give residents dignity and privacy. People will live here for several months, and want to take care of their space. The current proposal includes 80 parking spots for residents and staff. Considering many unhoused people do not have a car, this should be plenty. Neighbors of similar sites in San Jose report no changes to their neighborhood. (KQED)



'This new housing development, temporary housing thing, as far as I'm concerned, I haven't heard a peep out of these people. This has not been an issue for us, a problem whatsoever.'

–Rick Oderio, owner, Conklin Bros. Floor Coverings

*March 1 Community Meeting presentation
*https://www.kqed.org/news/11942734/emergency-calls-complaints-are-down-near-san-joses-temporary-housing-sites-so-why-are-they-still-so-politically-risky

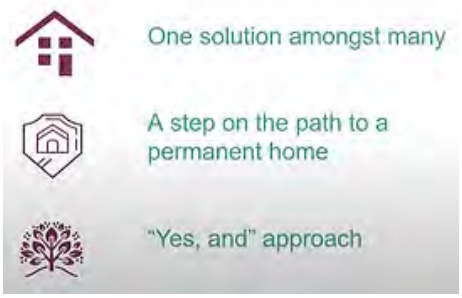
Additional Sources: UC Irvine School of Social Ecology: Affordable Housing Decreases Crime, Increases Property Values, Jamboree: Does Affordable Housing Drive Down Property Values?, City Community HHS: Do Affordable Housing Projects Harm Suburban Communities? Crime, Property Values, and Taxes in Mount Laurel, NJ, Citizens Housing and Planning Council: Homeless Shelters & Their Neighbors

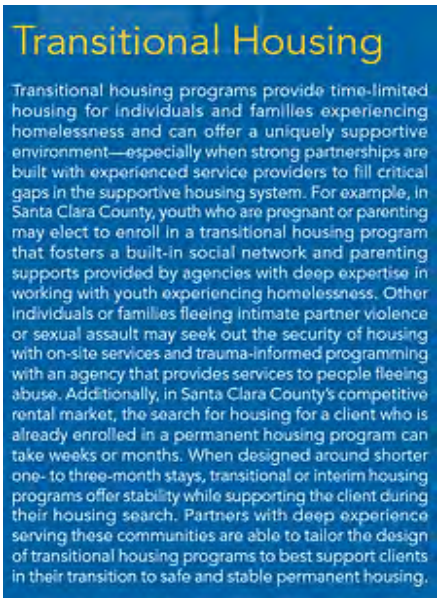
Low Barrier is Better: By meeting people where they are at and providing supportive services, this program can be more effective at helping the people who need it most. Low-barrier does not mean no barrier. LifeMoves has told us that they implement rules that residents have to follow, like signing in at night and keeping a curfew. Many unhoused people have "criminal records" due to infractions directly related to the criminalization of homelessness.

Additional Sources: United States Interagency Council on Homelessness: Emergency Shelter, CSH: Housing is the Best Medicine: Supportive Housing and the Social Determinants of Health, Arnold Ventures: Low-Barrier Approaches,, Center for American Progress: Preventing and Removing Barriers to Housing Security for People With Criminal Convictions, All Home: Strengthening Interim Housing as a Housing First Approach, United State Interagency Council on Homelessness: The Evidence Behind Approaches that Drive an End to Homelessness

Interim Leads to Permanent: The goal for everyone is to get into safe, permanent housing. This is only possible by creating entry points into the county system. Interim housing is one of the best entry points. People living on the streets are more likely to accept placement into interim housing with private units than congregate shelters. Research suggests that the longer a person is experiencing homelessness, the harder it is to exit. Interim housing helps to mitigate this.







*https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/DOC__ReimaginingInterimHousing_StagesActionAreas_FINAL.pdf
*https://www.allhomeca.org/2022/05/19/how-interim-and-permanent-housing-can-work-together-to-end-homelessness/
*https://siliconvalleyathome.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2018PITPlan-to-End-Homelessness.pdf

Additional Sources: All Home: How Interim and Permanent Housing Can Work Together to End Homelessness, National League of Cities: Permanent Housing is the Goal – But it Won't Address Homelessness Now, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health: Making the Case for Proactive Strategies to Alleviate Homelessness: A Systems Approach, The Framework for an Equitable Homelessness Response: Reimagining Interim Housing: Stages and Action Areas for Transforming Approaches to Sheltering People Experiencing Homelessness, McKinsey: The Ongoing Crisis of Homelessness in the Bay Area: What's Working, What's Not

Proven Health Benefits: Housing is considered to be a social determinant of health, meaning that it is a proven factor in a person's quality of health. Evidence supports decreased mortality among homeless people when they are sheltered vs on the street. Research reports that there is a "reduction in emergency department use," for homeless veterans that receive integrated social services alongside health services. (CDC) Health systems are frequently designed to discriminate against unhoused people. This program is intended to include access to healthcare.

Additional Sources: National Health Care for the Homeless Council: Addressing Health Equity through Health and Housing Partnerships, BMC Public Health: Care Avoidance Among Homeless People and Access to Care, Public Health Program at Santa Clara University: Deaths of Unhoused People in Santa Clara County, The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency: Health System Investments in Housing, CSH: Housing is the Best Medicine: Supportive Housing and the Social Determinants of Health, National Alliance to End Homelessness: Study Data Show that Housing Chronically Homeless People Saves Money, Lives, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4825747/Preventing Chronic Disease (CDC): Tailoring Care to Vulnerable Populations by Incorporating Social Determinants of Health

Mental Illness is Not Dangerous: 40 to 52 million people suffer from mental illness or substance abuse, and the vast majority do not experience homelessness. Mental illness is not a moral failing. Often it comes from specific experiences or even genetics. Studies show that providing shelter, especially shelter with dignity such as this facility, significantly improves a person's mental health. Meanwhile, living on the streets can cause trauma which negatively impacts mental health. People with mental illness are typically a bigger danger to themselves than those around them. Proposed support programs in this facility can help mitigate the threat they pose to themselves. It is illegal to discriminate against disability, including mental illness.

Additional Sources: Treatment Advocacy Center: Are People with Serious Mental Illness Who Are Not Being Treated Dangerous?, UCSF: Debunking the Myths of Homelessness, American Mental Health Counselors Association: Gun Violence and Mental Illness: Myths and Evidence-Based Facts, Center for American Progress: Lack of Housing and Mental Health Disabilities Exacerbate One Another, New York University: The 12 Biggest Myths about Homelessness in America

Regular People: Unhoused people are just people without a house. Growing numbers of families are living paycheck to paycheck. This means that they are one emergency away from losing their home. All it takes is a medical emergency, a traffic ticket, or any other unexpected expense, and a family who was living on their own can lose their shelter. The demographics of unhoused people in our county include elderly and disabled people. Homelessness is not a moral failure, but a combination of factors including systematic failure, income disparity, housing shortages, and being let down by friends and family.

Additional Resources: Annie E Casey Foundation: 2018 California Profile Transition-Age Youth in Foster Care, Spotlights: Homeless Children and Youth in Public Schools, American Journal of Preventative Medicine: Intimate Partner Violence and Housing Instability, Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University: The Growing Problem of Older Adult Homelessness

Efficient Use of Taxpayer Money: Currently, our society tends to rely on the criminal justice system and emergency rooms when confronting unhoused people. Both of those systems cost tax payers millions. Supportive housing is shown to be less expensive, and bring down costs in those other systems. The county already owns this land, making the process of obtaining it for this purpose affordable compared to purchasing a new piece of land from a private owner. HomeKey grants and commitments from LifeMoves and Sobrato mean less responsibility for the city and county.

Additional Resources: Bloomberg: How Much Would It Cost to End Homelessness in California for Good?, RAND Corporation: Supportive Housing Reduces Homelessness - and Lowers Health Care Costs by Millions, Vox: The Most Cost-Effective Way to Help the Homeless is to Give Them Homes

Community Is About Support: We all share this world, but more than that, we are a community and neighbors. As responsible, compassionate people, we should care about the welfare of others, even when it does not relate to us. There is never going to be a perfect solution to solve the "homeless problem", but we have to try something. Getting anyone off the streets and into shelter with access to resources is a win, even if we can't help everyone. We have the moral imperative to support this project, and our leaders have the responsibility to do what is best for all of their constituents, not just the ones with wealth.

Additional Resources: BetterUp: Community For the Win - How Collective Solutions Help Individual Problems

Privacy & Dignity: Access to private bathrooms and showers allows for better personal hygiene. Much of the stigma and dehumanization of unhoused people comes for perceived poor hygiene, which would not exist if those people had access to personal hygiene. The proposal plans to place residents in the facility through a process and allow them to stay for several months is a more dignified than the outdated model of lining up for one night at a time. Individual units with locks on the doors and a stable residence will limit crime between those staying in the facility.

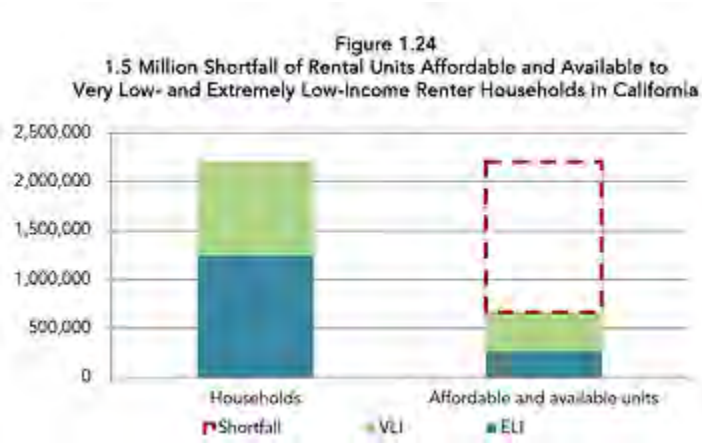
Addressing Systemic Failures: 25% of unhoused people in our county report a history of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. The foster system has let down many young people, who find themselves without a safe place to go after aging out. The criminalization of homelessness has resulted in unhoused people with criminal records for things like sleeping outside, trespassing on public property, or other minor offenses that should not equate to jail time, fines, or a record. The result of these records is more difficulty in being approved for housing. There is a significant lack of affordable housing in our county, making it even more difficult for lower income people to find a home to live in.

Social & Racial Justice: No social issue exists independently. When addressing housing, we must always consider its intersections with identities and justice. Homelessness disproportionately impacts BIPOC and LBGTQ+ people. By creating a safe housing environment, we can begin to address these disparities. Although it is illegal to discriminate based on gender, sexuality, race, and disability, many shelters or similar programs find subtle ways to do it. Building a facility which is low-barrier will remove the covert ways other programs keep people out. Addressing homelessness can be an important step in addressing systemic problems in our society. Increasing housing can help individuals and their communities, elevate their social - economic status.



Increasing Need: Santa Clara City and County have both seen rising numbers of unhoused people in recent years. The exact numbers are generally understood to be much higher. At least 3/4 of homeless people in Santa Clara county are unsheltered. They are living on the street and in the creeks where it is unsafe.
Data shows that more people than ever are accessing homeless services in California. In our county, the list for unhoused people trying to get shelter is so long that people are waiting months for assistance. (CalMatters)

More beds means a shorter list and less wait time. California is just not building new homes. Not enough houses or apartments exist to accommodate a growing population. The State of California is requiring each county to increase the number of beds for unhoused people. If Santa Clara County does not fulfill this obligation, it will face a significant fine.





*https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/docs/sha_final_combined.pdf
*https://destinationhomesv.org/understanding-homelessness/numbers/

Additional Resources: Bay Area Council Economic Institute: Bay Area Homelessness: New Urgency, New Solutions, County of Santa Clara: County of Santa Clara Point In Time Report on Homelessness, The State of the Supportive Housing System in Santa Clara County: Ending Homelessness, Destination: Home: Understanding Homelessness in Santa Clara County



SANTA CLARA HOUSING ADVOCATES
SUPPORTERS OF BENTON & LAWRENCE PROJECT

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Groups and Organizations

Destination : Home

SV@Home

Housing Action Coalition

South Bay YIMBY

Greenbelt Alliance

Helping Hands SV

Santa Clara Community Advocates

Peninsula Democratic Coalition

Silicon Valley Community Foundation



Destination: Home

Through our collective impact model, we incubate new ideas, advocate for policies, and fund impactful strategies that address the root causes of homelessness and help ensure that our most vulnerable neighbors have a stable home.



SV@Home

A membership organization, SV@Home works with a broad coalition of strategic partners to address the urgent housing need by boosting production of homes at all income levels, preserving existing affordable homes, and protecting the families in them.



Housing Action Coalition



Greenbelt Alliance

Helping Hands Silicon Valley

To support the most vulnerable in our community who lack access to the basic needs of food and shelter, and assist them in moving towards self sufficiency.

South Bay YIMBY

We are South Bay Area residents who seek solutions to our area's housing shortage.

"South Bay YIMBY strongly supports the interim housing project proposed for Benton Street in the City of Santa Clara. Hundreds of our neighbors in Santa Clara are unhoused and unsheltered, and the Benton Street interim housing project will provide a vital opportunity for these individuals to stabilize their lives, gain access to supportive services, start to recover from the stress of living on the street, and look for permanent housing. We believe that we need to counter anger and fear with pragmatism and compassion. Our community cannot solve homelessness without providing safety, stability, and care to those most in need.

South Bay YIMBY represents hundreds of pro-housing advocates in Santa Clara and throughout the South Bay working towards plentiful, inclusive, and affordable housing. We aim to provide evidence-based solutions to the housing crisis and a political voice to residents struggling to afford housing."

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

People working together for the greater good is where transformation happens

Silicon Valley Community Foundation supports an increase in interim supportive housing at suitable sites in Santa Clara County and the City of Santa Clara as an initial yet vital component of systemic approaches to address the needs of unhoused people in our communities.

Peninsula Democratic Coalition

The Peninsula Democratic Coalition works to promote the Democratic Party and get local Democrats elected. Our members come from throughout the communities in Silicon Valley.

April 10, 2023

To: City Council of Santa Clara
Lisa Gillmor, Mayor
Anthony Becker
Raj Chahal
Karen Hardy
Sudhanshu Jain
Kevin Park
Kathy Watanabe

Dear Members of the Santa Clara City Council,

As President of the Peninsula Democratic Coalition (the oldest and largest Democratic Club on the Peninsula), I would like to extend support of the PDC along with the Santa Clara Housing Advocates for the interim supportive housing project that the City and County of Santa Clara have been working on with Life Moves. The PDC also supports applying for HomeKey funding.

We as an organization advocate for housing of the homeless and express the hope that this project will lead to more permanent housing with appropriate social service resources for the participants involved. Interim housing is not the complete answer if the participants have no place to go once the interim services are completed.

Finding and providing housing for those who don't have any is a very important cause and the PDC encourages that it be done effectively, with transparency, and with accurate data collection.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorri Holzberg
Peninsula Democratic Coalition President

Individuals



David Donaldson



Mohammed Nadeem



Kathy Almazol



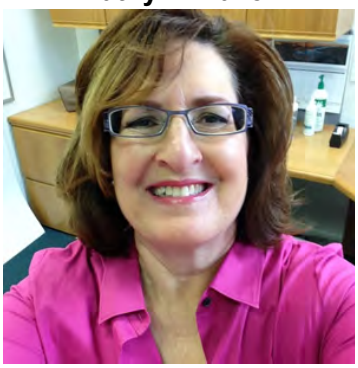
R. Elysa Gurman



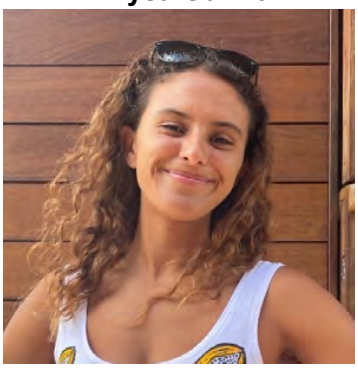
Sarah Foad



Alon Altman



Melinda Berlant



Asha DuMonthier



David Donaldson

2023-24 State Democratic Party Assembly District 26 Delegate

Neighbor & Homeowner



Mohammed Nadeem

Former Santa Clara City Council Candidate

I support an increase in interim supportive housing at suitable sites in Santa Clara County, including the Benton & Lawrence site in the City of Santa Clara.



Kathy Almazol

Former head of Catholic Schools in Diocese of San Jose

Neighbor & Homeowner

I fully support interim housing in Santa Clara County, including the Benton and Lawrence site in Santa Clara, as a way to provide systemic programs that will address the many needs of the unhoused people who are our community members.



R. Elysa Gurman

Founder & Lead Community Organizer, Santa Clara Housing Advocates

Neighbor



Sarah Foad

Healthcare Worker, Board of Directors, Women Health Care Executives

Neighbor & Homeowner



Asha DuMonthier

Political Educator, National Nurses United

Masters, Public Policy, UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy

Masters Thesis: Decriminalizing Houselessness in Hawaii

Neighbor



Melinda Berlant

Community Volunteer & Former Homeowner

Neighbor & Parent



Alon Altman

Senior Site Reliability Engineer, Google

Neighbor

From:	B W
To:	Clerk
Subject:	For the City Hall April 25, 2023, Meeting Agenda. RE: Proposed Interim Housing at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:19:24 AM

Dear Mayor Gilmore, City Councilmembers:

We strongly oppose the low-barrier interim housing proposed 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.

The following are some urgent issues that must be fully addressed before any proposal can move forward. I urge you to immediately vote NO on the proposed homeless shelters at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway.

1) How do Santa Clara County and City of Santa Clara ensure the safety of the 11,000 children who are attending the more than 15 schools near the proposed homeless site? The failed experiment at MTV and Milpitas clearly have shown crimes have shot up 300% after the shelter was built in the surrounding

neighborhood. What is the County's plan on the safety of the 11,000 children in the immediate neighborhood?

2) What is the successful rate of the homeless people who entered the shelter and later found permanent housing? According to statistics from the two nearby locations, MTV and Milpitas, the homeless who entered these facilities and later found permanent homes is less than 20%! That is less than 1 out 5 successful rate. Where do the other 4 homeless go? This is clearly a waste of tax dollars! Creating so many problems for the surrounding neighborhood for such meager results. I would rather give each homeless person the full amount of funds per head count that is needed to operate such a shelter. We need to work on improving the failing existing homeless shelters before building more of them. Repeating a failed model will only result in failure. Let's work on improving the existing shelters first. Are there any plans to improve the outcome of the two existing shelters, before we build more?

3)The homeless people who don't find permanent housing and who are at the end of their “interim” stay are

going to be forced out of the shelter. They are going to congregate near the shelter site, thereby impacting the immediate neighborhood. It will only get worse as time goes by! There will be more and more homeless in our neighborhood. This is not solving the homeless problem. It is just dumping the homeless, and issues that come with being homeless in our neighborhood. We must stop this from happening. What is the County's plan to mitigate this problem?

4) If as proposed the "low barrier interim homeless shelter" will take on the "most challenged homeless", what kind of security force does a 200+ persons homeless shelter come with? One clearly would expect a higher ratio of security force for the "most challenged homeless". A 20 person security force (a one to ten ratio) may or may not be even enough to handle the situations that surely will arise. Does the County have done any study on this matter, and will the County provide the dedicated full time security personnel's?

5) If the "interim homeless shelter" is a drug free environment as stated, what kind of medical help is

provided for the 200+ persons homeless at the shelter? We can't expect a drug addict to become clean on the day he/she moved into the shelter. If he/she can not find immediate help at the shelter, he/she will be doing drugs on the street near the shelter, in nearby parks, at the school yards, in our neighborhood! With the shelter's plan to admit the "most challenged homeless", there got to be a high number of doctors and nurses on site to meet the challenges. Many homeless people also have mental issues, that is just a fact of life. Will the County provide enough specialists on site to help these homeless people with mental issues? How many doctors and nurses does the County plan to assign to this shelter full time?

6) A homeless shelter is not a jail. Thus the homeless are free to go in and out of the shelter, as I understand it. And keep in mind these are the "most challenging homeless". 200+ “interim homeless shelter” residents will be out doing their “business” and wandering around the immediate neighborhood. With the concentration of 200 plus "most challenging homeless", many no doubt with drug additions at this location, drug dealers will be

attracted to come; it is well documented a concentration of homeless people will attract drug dealers, as in Tenderloin, San Francisco. How many additional police officers are assigned to this precinct, dedicated to the “low barrier interim homeless shelter?

7) What does Santa Clara County plan to do at the end of a homeless "interim" stay, when a homeless person does not find permanent housing? Does the county have any plan to bus them back to where they were found? Or the county just let them out and hope for the best? Where does the county think the homeless will go? The answer is very obvious. They will just walk into the immediate neighborhood, OUR neighborhood, and be homeless again! Does the County have any busing plan to move the homeless to where they want to go? Does the County have the funding dedicated to deal with such a large army of homeless people concentrating in our neighborhood?

8) This proposed location has been used for community activities for many many years, such as pumpkin patches, Christmas tree sales, and more. Where will the

thousands of local families go for these kind of activities if the County takes away this lot by inserting a homeless shelters here. What will the County provide as an alternative for the local families?

In summary, the Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway location is absolutely wrong for any homeless housing.

In light of the the above issues, we encourage that the City of Santa Clara vote NO on the proposed homeless shelter at Benton Street & Lawrence Expressway.

Sincerely,

Wong Family
Residents of the City of Santa Clara

From:	puredancing
To:	Clerk; Nora Pimentel
Subject:	Information to add to 4/25 council meeting agenda on Benton project (item #1
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:02:56 PM

Hello Nora,

I would like to have the following information added to 4/25 council meeting agenda (Benton project or item #1). Let me know if you need me to put all of those into a single word document.

Thank you,

Cindy

1.Milpitas council meeting on 1000 Hillview Ct apartment, in August 2022: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BR0sffdNLg&t=9458s*, starts 2:37:41

- **Chief police Hernandez gave update on its impact on public safety services. Starting 2:37:41**
- Mayor comment - tenants in the business park next door who have been there for 22 years are leaving. And the business park is listed for sale by the owner. 2:58:35
- A ziploc bag of drugs were discovered in the property. Mayor requested a K9 dog to search onsite, Consuelo refused the request. 3:06:02 - 3:09:01
- Consuelo responded about the crime number spike. 3:12:00
- Councilmember challenged Consuelo that she and the county had changed the admission criteria without informing the city. 3:14:50
- Only 10 Milpitas homeless have been housed at 130 units in 1000 Hillview Ct. 3:16:05
- Councilmember challenged the property management manager that they have never had staff onsite to do repairs. 3:19:35

- Consuelo acknowledged the crime spike and said the spike will last 3-4 years until it stabilizes. Councilmember said 3-4 years is unacceptable. 3:25:33

- Mayor challenged Consuelo and the property manager of the site's weapon and drug policy. Both of them failed to answer directly. 3:27:06

- Mayor called it a shame that the site is missing all kinds of services for its tenants. 3:34:20

- Police officer Hernandez urged the site manager and Consuelo to ensure the site is a safe place for everyone. 3:48:40

- 4:04:00 Vice Mayor Carmen Montano: "***I am dismayed about all the increasing crime and Consuelo, thank you. However I do NOT agree with your comment that the crime has gone up because the housing of residents has gone up. so that really tells me that your screening process needs to improve. Because that obviously the residents you are selecting are committing crimes. And there is something wrong with your screening process, i think you need to improve on that.*** "

2.Milpitas council meeting on 1000 Hillview Ct apartment, in November 2022: *https://www.youtube.com/live/1sqJldTlpmU?feature=share&t=2570, starts 43:00*

- **Chief police Hernandez gave update on its impact on public safety services. Starting** *1:03:21*

- **Councilmember Karina R. Dominguez (who is the initial supporter for this project) expressed a lot of concerns for safety and urge them to be addressed immediately.** Starts 1:31:38

3.Disabled South Bay residents stuck after elevator stops working at supportive housing facility: *https://abc7news.com/hillview-court-apartments-milpitas-supportive-housing-broken-elevator-disabled-residents-elderly/12856383/*
4.As costs rise, LifeMoves' Palo Alto's transitional housing project seeks to reduce amenities: *https://paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/03/30/as-costs-rise-palo-altos-transitional-housing-project-seeks-to-reduce-amenities*
5.LifeMoves Mountain View promises to help its homeless clients find stable housing in three months. The majority of them don't:
https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2023/03/30/lifemoves-mountain-view-

promises-to-help-homeless-clients-find-stable-housing-in-three-months-the-vast-majority-dont

6.Life Moves Mountain View aims to house people in just three months. Experts say that its model doesn't work: https://paloaltoonline.com/news/2023/03/30/lifemoves-mountain-view-promises-to-help-homeless-clients-find-stable-housing-in-three-months-the-vast-majority-dont

Nora Pimentel

From: J Pan <jaccard.ceo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 5:00 PM
To: Nora Pimentel
Subject: Add to 4/25 council meeting agenda on Benton Project (item #1)

Dear Mayor Glimore and City Councilemenbers,

Please vote NO to the Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter proposal.

I am a mother with two elementary school kids living in the City of Santa Clara. My whole family opposes the proposed Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter Plan because LifeMoves, who supervises the project, has a very bad record of running other homeless shelters in nearby cities. There is no plan that LifeMoves would improve and supervise the Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter project better than similar projects. That is why we are deeply concerned about the Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter project, which will impact our communities badly.

LifeMoves supervised similar shelter projects in the nearby cities, and they created very poor records in achieving projects' goals. For example, the construction cost estimate of LifeMoves' Palo Alto shelter was doubled within a year after the approval date, however, the average inflation rate in the past three years was 5%-7% per federal and state government's reports. Does this unreasonable construction cost increase indicate LifeMoves is losing control of their projects? The intention of shelters is to provide a safe place for many homeless people to live. However, LifeMoves kept harassers in the Mountain View shelter despite repeated sexual harassment reports per *Almanac News, Mountain View Voice*. How can they achieve the purpose of the project by keeping the harassers in the shelters and leaving well-behaved homeless people out of the shelters due to the threats by harassers.

Per local news, the success rate of LifeMoves' shelters is only 26%, and they lack qualified staff and nurses to operate their existing shelters even though the shelters have not reached their full capacities up to now. How can LifeMoves provide qualified service for the existing shelters during national-wide labor shortage and has resources to operate new shelters? Without resolving the problems with the existing shelters but rushing to construct another new bigger shelter will only make the problems worse. We are afraid the proposed Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter Plan will be another non-successful project by LifeMoves, taxpayers will be very disappointed and will vote for another party's candidates.

LifeMoves needs to provide taxpayers a plan and put it into action to improve their supervision by demonstrating their ability to provide quality of service with a timeline, within budget for at least one existing shelter. LifeMoves should resolve their existing problems first, before acquiring any new projects.

There is another shelter with a full capacity of 536 people per year in the City of Santa Clara approximately 0.5 miles from this location. The existing shelter is not full yet, why is there a need to build another bigger shelter in this area?

The City of Santa Clara is facing a fiscal deficit. Our city libraries are only open half-day on weekdays and are closed on Sunday to cut expenses. As a working mother, weekends and evenings are the only time I can bring my kids to city libraries. The libraries in nearby Cities, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, San Jose, etc.,

open 7 days a week and full day on weekdays. Our public facilities, such as swimming pools, need to be repaired and maintained but do not have funding to schedule such work per the Santa Clara swimming facility staffs' comments at the City Council Meeting on April 11, 2023. With such a bad fiscal deficit, should our tax dollars be well spent and balanced between meeting existing residents' needs and building more homeless shelters?

It is a sad fact that the crime rate increased significantly after the opening of the existing shelters in their communities with a good intention of residing homeless people in residential areas and providing them access to all kinds of community services. Does the City of Santa Clara have any plan to prevent the increase in the crime rate in our community with a new shelter? Does the City of Santa Clara have a budget to enhance the manpower of first responders, law enforcement, first aids, street sanitation, etc.?

Where can the City of Santa Clara find funding for the operation of many shelters and mitigating negative impacts to our communities? Who will take responsibility for over budget, increase of crime rate, and shortage of public resources if the project was approved?

Is there any agency evaluating the quality-of-service LifeMoves provided? Have you set up explicit evaluation standards, procedure, and schedule? Is there any consequence for LifeMoves to take for their poor supervision leading to low performance of the shelters? Is there possible any circumstance that the City will close the shelter in the future? For example, if the crime rate including burglaries, break-in, fire, harassment, sex offense, and drug related violation increases 50% after the opening the shelter within 1.5 miles of radius of the shelter; or the shelter will be closed if the success rate are all lower than 50% for three consecutive 90-days terms; or the shelter will be closed if its cost increased 50% more than budget.

We voted for our city council members in the trust that we would work together to make the City of Santa Clara a better place to live. We hope the city council members vote based on Facts instead of Promises.

We really appreciate it if you address our concerns for the Benton and Lawrence Homeless Shelter Plan project clearly at the public hearing on April 25, 2023.

Please vote NO to the homeless shelter plan at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway! Thank you!

Best Regards,

Pan Family

Residents of Santa Clara

Michelle Estabillo

From: Neelu Kumawat <neelu_d_k@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 5:45 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 4/25 council mtg item #1 Benton project

Hello

Providing shelter to homeless people is a noble idea but putting dangerous elements in the middle of a community not such a great one.

Please know that a Homeless is different from homeless with mental illness. A decent familyman trying to get back on his feet is very different from a repeated sex offender.
A Kind homeless person is very different than a drug addict.
Please vote no for the low bar entry.

Here are a couple of suggestions:
Provide shelter to the homeless families whose children are enrolled in SCUSD schools.
Or
Only to the females who are trying to get back on their feet… they may be with children, pregnant or without children.

Thanks
Neelu

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ashish Verma
To: Nora Pimentel; Clerk
Subject: Re: Material #3 to be added for 4/25 Santa Clara City Council Meeting (item#1)
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:37:57 AM

Hi Nora,

I am not sure if the protocol allows for a video clipping from news associated with material #3.

Here is a video link that shows the attack and the associated news:
(Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=po6M1ohsVKc)

On Wed, Apr 19, 2023 at 9:31 AM Ashish Verma <ashishv.iitd@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi Nora,
>
> I'd request you to add this document to the agenda for the meeting on 4/25 regarding Lawrence/Benton Homeless Shelter.
>
> This shows an example of safety issues associated with an increase in folks with substance abuse in any neighborhood.
> We do not want to have issues like these in Santa Clara.
>
> Attached is a PDF version of this article.
> (Link: https://abc7news.com/sf-fire-commissioner-attack-don-carmignani-san-francisco-crime-metal-pipe/13100484)
>
> Regards,
> Ashish

From: Zhihao Ji
To: Clerk; Nora Pimentel
Subject: Re: Photos show people protested against benton project, please attach to the 04/25 meeting agenda
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:58:36 PM
Attachments: event photos.zip

Looks like the email was sent failed because the attachments are too large. I compressed them and try again.

On Wed, Apr 19, 2023 at 12:46 PM Zhihao Ji <jizhihao2010@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi,
>
> I want to provide some photos that the neighbours protested against the benton project, can you help to attach to the 04/25 meeting agenda?
>
> There were two protests for this project, 03/01 at Earl R. Carmichael Park and 04/14 at Santa Clara City Hall. As the local community, we're extremely concerned about this project. We have volunteers to collect petition signatures every weekend, and we saw thousands of people share the same concerns with us. I hope council members can listen to the local neighbors.
>
> Thank you!
> Zhihao


NO ONE ASKED US
NO
KEVIN, VOTE NO!!
ITS OUR FUTURE
Too close to school
WRONG LOCATION
NO!!
NO
NO Low Barrier Homeless Shelter
WHO PROTECT US?
LISTEN TO US! WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY NO
NO!!
NO
NO LOW BARRIER SHELTER
NOT @ THIS LOCATION
NO HOMELESS SHELTER NEXT TO SCHOOLS
KEVIN PARK & KAREN HARDY VOTE NO
SAFETY
Protect the kids
NO
SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
PLEASE consider
NO
Kevin Park Karen Hardy
VOTE NO to show YOU CARE
PLEASE consider
NO


NO HOMELESS SHELTER
NEXT TO HOMES
AND SCHOOLS
Columbia
© LONGMANGO


NO ONE ASKED US
NO ONE ASKED US
UNSAFE
WRONG LOCATION
NO
VOTE NO
NOT
VOTE NO
ITS OUR FUTURE
© LONGMANGO


SAVE our KIDS
NO MORE SHELTER BENTON
children, seniors Everyone WE FEEL UNSAFE
No! LOWERTER SHELTER
NO!!! a 2nd Shelter in our neighborhood
NO ONE ASKED US
our neighbourhood
Fairness or Favouritism?
© LONGMANGO


NO ONE ASKED US
NO
VOTE NO
YOU CARE
ITS OUR FUTURE
ITS OUR LIFE
NO ONE ASKED US
NO BENTON SHELTER
PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
© LONGMANGO


Protect the kids
LOW BARRIER
Safety for Kids
PUT KIDS 1ST
to low barrier Shelters
Senior Welfare, S
Kids, Homeless Suppo
income housing
Low Screening
Drugs Destroy
Benton-Law
Kev
© LONGMANGO


SAFETY
WRONG LOCATION
NO!!
NO ONE
NO
NO
NO
NO!!
NO
Low Barrier
Homeless Shelter
NO
NO LOW BARRIER
SHELTER
SANTACLARA
SAY NO
KEVIN PARK
&
KAREN HARDY
VOTE NO
NO
LISTEN TO US!
WE HAVE THE
RIGHT TO SAY
NO


NO
To Benton Location
80% said NO.
Pick another location.
Safety 1st for our Kids &
Seniors.
We can't afford to be
Collateral Damage.
NO!!
NO


SAFETY:
PUT KIDS FIRST!
NO ONE ASKED US
WRONG LOCATION
NO HOMELESS SHELTER
NEXT TO HOMES
AND SCHOOLS



From:	Zhihao Ji
To:	Clerk; Nora Pimentel
Subject:	The poll from 03/22 meeting, please attach it to 04/25 meeting agenda
Date:	Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:53:51 PM

Hi,

I want to provide a screenshot from the 03/22 benton project community meeting, which shows only **14%** of people support this project. I think it's very clear that local neighbors' opinions are against this project. I hope council members would take the local community's opinion into consideration before voting for the project. Please help to attach this picture to the 04/25 meeting agenda.

Thank you! Really appreciate it!

Best,
Zhihao

You are viewing the poll results (shared by host)

Poll 2 - Communication and Sentiment

No 14%

Your answer: Yes

2. If a project is approved at this site, would you be interested in joining a Community Advisory Committee? (Multiple Choice) *

Yes 17%

No 55%

Maybe 29%

Your answer: No , Maybe

3. As of right now, what is your opinion of the proposed project? (Multiple Choice) *

I support building interim housing at this site. 14%

I do not support building interim housing at this site. 80%

I am undecided about the proposed project. 6%

Close