

September 5, 2017

Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Clara  
70 W. Hedding Street, 10<sup>th</sup> floor  
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear President Cortese,

Nowhere is the homelessness crisis more palpable than here in San Jose, where we have one of the largest unsheltered homeless populations in the U.S. Every night, 4,000 individuals must find shelter in our creeks, parks and freeway underpasses, which takes a huge toll on not only our homeless residents but also our entire community.

While the development of permanent supportive housing remains our preferred approach, the urgency to address the immediate needs of thousands of unsheltered homeless people living in our community requires immediate action. As a City, we've implemented a variety of interim and emergency housing interventions including adopting a permanent ordinance to allow churches to more easily provide shelter, opening up community centers and libraries during the cold weather months as overnight warming centers and launching a mobile hygiene program.

All of these options, however, still fail to meet the need of so many unhoused people. We must continue to explore every viable option to house more of our homeless residents. As such, we're writing to request your assistance on a pilot "Bridge Housing" project, -- often called "tiny homes." As a City Council we've expressed a strong interest in demonstrating a "proof of concept" for bridge housing communities on a small number of sites, fewer than three, to first demonstrate success with effective program operations and thorough community outreach.

With the recent passage of state legislation, AB2176, San Jose has a unique opportunity to pilot the construction of temporary housing structures for homeless on public land. This type of project represents a promising and cost-effective strategy for rapidly housing some of our most vulnerable residents, restoring their dignity and putting them back on a path to self-sufficiency. Over the past year, we secured authority from the state, and identified funding for the project. Now, we just need to find the sites to build this type of housing.

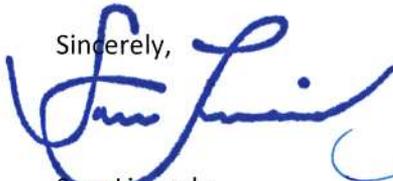
The City is currently evaluating 99 city-owned parcels of land as potential sites for a pilot bridge housing community, however, many of the parcels have constraints. Therefore, we are looking to our partner agencies to consider leasing at little to no cost one or more of your underutilized properties. We ask you work with our Housing staff immediately to provide a list of vacant or underutilized sites the County might consider leasing to the City.

While we continue to evaluate potential sites, the City's Housing Department is putting together a comprehensive community outreach and engagement plan. Staff is also working with Gensler

architecture firm, who is providing pro-bono design services for the bridge housing. We anticipate a prototype design by the end of September. Additionally, our Housing Department issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to find a professional developer and operator for the bridge housing community and have identified Habitat for Humanity, HomeFirst and LifeMoves as qualified partners that may be awarded contracts to partner with the City on this pilot program. We are putting together a thoughtful and unique approach and our staff would be happy to provide [information](#).

In the meantime, we hope you'll seriously consider our request for use of County underutilized or vacant lands. If you'd like to discuss further, please contact Ragan Henninger, Senior Advisor in the Mayor's office (408) 535-4830, [ragan.henninger@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:ragan.henninger@sanjoseca.gov) or Ray Bramson, Acting Deputy Director in the Housing Department (408) 535-8234 or [ray.bramson@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:ray.bramson@sanjoseca.gov).

Sincerely,



Sam Liccardo  
Mayor



Magdalena Carrasco  
Vice Mayor



Chappie Jones  
Councilmember, District 1



Sergio Jimenez  
Councilmember, District 2



Raul Peralez  
Councilmember, District 3



Lan Diep  
Councilmember, District 4



Devora "Dev" Davis  
Councilmember, District 6



Tam Nguyen  
Councilmember, District 7



Sylvia Arenas  
Councilmember, District 8



Donald Rocha  
Councilmember, District 9



Johnny Khamis  
Councilmember, District 10