



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco
SUBJECT: SEE BELOW
DATE: November 27, 2018

APPROVE: 

DATE:

November 27, 2018

SUBJECT: GROUND LEASING OF 934-949 LOCUST ST TO COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PURPOSES

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the Staff Recommendation.

BACKGROUND

We appreciate the County of Santa Clara, especially Supervisor Ken Yeager for our collaboration to lease The Haven for our LGBTQ+ community. If passed by my colleagues, we would be the second city to have a shelter for LGBTQ+ people, San Francisco being the first. As stated in this report, the Housing Department has determined there are 7,394 homeless individuals in Santa Clara County on any given night. 29% or 2,145 of homeless survey respondents identified as LGBTQ+. This shelter is so imperative, especially for our houseless LGBTQ+ community.

According to the analysis, eligible families and individuals will be housed at the Haven regardless of LGBTQ status, and persons referred to the site are not mandated to be identified or self-identify as a member of the LGBTQ community. However, the Haven will be designed and equipped to meet the needs of the LGBTQ+ community. As we know this community has historically faced and continue to face discrimination and they experience greater encounters with not only health risks, but also violence, due to their sexual orientation, self-identification, and lack of support from institutions in society. Transgender people are particularly at physical risk due to a lack of acceptance and are often turned away from shelters.

This collaboration between our Housing Department and the County is actively building on the strong desire to protect our vulnerable LGBTQ+ residents and serve the unique needs of this community.