



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Raul Peralez

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 11/27/2018

Approved by:

Date: 11/27/18

SUBJECT: Actions Related to the Ground Leasing of 934-949 Locust Street to County of Santa Clara for Affordable Housing Purposes and Approval of the Proposed Rehabilitation of the Existing Facilities.

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff recommendation to hold a public hearing, accept staff report and adopt a resolution.

BACKGROUND

Earlier this summer, I brought forth a memorandum for staff to assess the feasibility of utilizing the shelter home at 934-949 Locust Street known as the Haven for transitional housing¹. It is great to hear that those conversations between the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County have led to the creation of a transitional housing shelter focused and equipped to assist individuals in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) community as they find permanent housing.

Given our desperate need for more interim housing solutions, I fully support the conversion of the Haven from disaster housing to transitional housing. Many of our homeless residents already have difficulty finding shelter in our City. For those who identify as LGBTQ, they often face an additional challenge of finding shelter that is both safe and welcoming.

¹ Peralez, R. (2018). The Haven Use Conversion. *City of San Jose Rules and Open Government Committee*. Retrieved from <http://sanjose.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=05801b1f-b49b-4c78-a0f4-e2205894b2a4.pdf>.

A recent study found that LGBTQ youth are 120% more likely to become homeless and that 40% of youth runaways identify as LGBTQ². Homelessness is a critical issue in the LGBTQ community and we should be doing more to ensure that they are protected from further violence and abuse as they search for housing. The conversion of the Haven will be a welcomed resource to our City and provide refuge to our LGBTQ community. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting staff recommendation.

²Dashow, J. (2017). New Report on Youth Homeless Affirms that LGBTQ Youth Disproportionately Experience Homelessness. *Human Rights Campaign*. Retrieved from <https://www.hrc.org/blog/new-report-on-youth-homeless-affirms-that-lgbtq-youth-disproportionately-ex>.