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November 15, 2019

Community and Economic Development Committee
San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Affordable Housing Siting Policy (Item D2 on the 11/18 Agenda)

Dear Chairman Khamis & CED Committee Members:

We look forward to the Committee's upcoming discussion on the development of a new Affordable Housing Siting Policy. As the City begins this important work, **we believe that the objective of this new Affordable Housing Siting Policy must be to accelerate the production of more affordable housing throughout our community.**

The need for more affordable housing has never been greater. According to the 2018 Housing Element Annual Progress Report released in March, San Jose is only 13% of the way to meeting its 2014-2022 RHNA affordable housing goal. The shortfall is even greater at the lowest end of the affordability spectrum (San Jose is only 5% of the way to its Extremely Low Income goal), leaving the overwhelming majority of low-income households severely rent burdened and pushing even more families and individuals into homelessness.

At the same time, residents in many parts of our city lack access to affordable housing options. If we are to truly build a healthy and equitable community, we must take steps to ensure that more of our neighborhoods contain quality, affordable housing opportunities.

That's why it's critical that we develop a policy that will facilitate the construction of much more affordable housing, in many more locations throughout the city. And as part of the upcoming workplan for the Affordable Housing Siting Policy, **we urge the City to explore potential policy and land use changes that would allow the expedited development of affordable housing on any site near transit, services and other amenities.** This is one of the most impactful actions the City can take to accelerate housing production and ensure that we have more affordable housing options for residents throughout our community.

We believe that we have a unique opportunity to significantly scale our collective efforts to build more affordable housing in our community and Destination: Home stands ready to work with you in the development of this new policy.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Loving
CEO

CC: City Clerk, Mayor Liccardo, San Jose City Council, Jacky Morales-Ferrand, Rachel VanderVeen