



P.O. Box 5374
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October 1, 2021

To: Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Councilmembers Jimenez, Peralez, Cohen, Carrasco, Davis, Esparza, Arenas, Foley, and Mahan
cc: San Jose City Clerk

Subject: EMERGENCY INTERIM HOUSING PARKING LOT E, 10/05/21, ITEM 8.4 (FN 21-2137)

The League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara asks you to **support actions related to the construction of the Emergency Interim Housing at the Police Administration Building Parking Lot E**. Our representatives attended the August 2 virtual community meeting and, subsequently, the League voted to support the project in concept. After careful review of the staff memorandum, we remain in strong support of the project.

The League of Women Voters organizations at state, national, and local levels have long held positions, created after study by consensus of members, on equality of opportunity that stresses equal access to education, employment, and housing. The LWV of California, at the request of members, formed a Homelessness Task Force. After a two-year process, consensus was reached on a new state Homelessness Action Policy. (<https://lwvc.org/our-work/positions/homelessness-action-policy>)

Here are two key details from the Homelessness Action Policy relevant to this project. The League supports:

- Building of shelters, permanent supportive housing, and low-income/very low-income/extremely low-income housing for those who are experiencing homelessness.
- Supportive services, including effective case management, job training, domestic violence services, and treatment for physical and mental health, as well as substance use disorder, to help people experiencing homelessness succeed in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing.

In addition to social policy like housing, the League also has numerous positions that encourage good government and fiscal responsibility. San Jose International Airport is a critical component of our local economy and its federal funding must be protected. Though it is not specifically mentioned in the staff report, we urge you to follow up on measures to aid the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy. .

The League thanks Destination: Home, SHP Foundation, and Devcon Construction for their support of the project and their donations which greatly reduce the cost to the City. In addition, we are very aware of the immense effort made by staff from Housing, Public Works, Budget and the City Manager's team to move this project forward. **Please approve staff recommendations that will allow the City to proceed with constructing an Emergency Interim Housing Community at the Police Administration Building Lot E site in an expedited manner.**

Regards,

Carol M. Watts

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