



January 4, 2023

City of Mountain View
Environmental Planning Commission

Re: 2023-2031 Housing Element

Dear Environmental Planning Commission:

I'm reaching out to share input regarding the Housing Element and share barriers that are affecting low income families in the City of Mountain View. I am sharing on behalf of Cafecito con Aroma de Justicia (Cafecito), as an active member and as the Executive Director of Reach Potential Movement (RPM). Both Cafecito and RPM work extensively with low income Spanish speaking families and households who live in Mountain View in their RVs, vehicles and those who are doubled and tripled up in apartment units.

Rents have gone up quite a bit from two years ago in much of the state and Mountain View is not immune to this. With home prices up from where they were at the beginning of the pandemic, it makes it very expensive to live here. This was our problem going into 2020 and here we are in 2023, dealing with the same issues sandwiched between a worldwide pandemic, creating a housing crisis for low income households.

How do we dig our way out of this housing crisis? At Cafecito and RPM we believe action and change starts by taking action today! Below are a few ways we believe the City of Mountain View can begin to tackle these issues:

- We support replacement requirements when rent controlled units are demolished
- We support the implementation of COPA/TOPA
- We support additional funding and support services for households experiencing eviction
- We support revamping the BMR program by reevaluating usage of the area median income guideline which has outpriced households most in need
- We support eliminating requests for social security numbers for affordable housing rental assistance
- We support 24-7 shelter solutions for women and children, including domestic violence beds for women and children (DV is a key factor in homelessness for women)

Thank you for taking into consideration these areas we are bringing before the Commission. We welcome further conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

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