



July 25, 2023

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senator
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Endorsement of the Housing for All Act of 2023

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the City of Hayward, I write today to voice my support and thank you for sponsoring the Housing for All Act.

The City of Hayward is focused on providing residents with the support they need to stay and remain housed in our community.

Providing more affordable housing in the Bay Area and across California is vital to address homelessness. A recent study released by the University of California, San Francisco Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, found that homelessness in California is unequivocally linked to a shortage of affordable housing. Federal, state, and local authorities must work together to combine resources and knowledge to build and maintain affordable housing options in California, and especially in areas that continue to see housing prices skyrocket.

Increasing emergency solutions, such as street outreach, rapid re-housing assistance, emergency shelters, and homelessness prevention are needed immediately for public health, public safety, and humanitarian reasons. The Alameda County Centering Racial Equity in Homeless Response System Design Final Report, released in 2021, conducted a system of care needs assessment and identified the need to create more interim housing in non-congregate settings and other supported living opportunities - which includes augmented board and care beds - as a significant need. Hayward is focused on implementing the findings in the report, but it can be difficult to mix-and-match stringent federal and state funds to fit the specific needs of our community. A comprehensive undertaking of our housing and homelessness issue is needed to reverse the increasing homelessness in the Bay Area and provide our community with the resources to end it.

Every community is different. In Hayward, we have been investing public and private funds in innovative, locally developed approaches to preventing and ending homelessness for our residents. The St. Regis project is an important example of what happens when communities are given the funds to repurpose buildings to meet the needs of the present. The City has partnered with a behavioral health and housing services nonprofit to rehabilitate an underutilized building and convert it into a behavioral health treatment and crisis services, medical clinic, and supportive housing campus. The project will increase the total bed capacity in Hayward by 206 beds, more than doubling local capacity. When the St. Regis project is complete in Fall 2024, it



will expand the geographic coverage for available services and meet multiple urgent needs, including voluntary and secure residential treatment combined with a full complement of supervised and supportive housing options. Importantly, the project provides opportunities for individuals to transition into less restrictive environments as they progress in recovery, promoting a holistic approach to care and support.

The St. Regis project is addressing multiple resident priorities - homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse. It is driven by the acknowledgement that homelessness is a complex issue, and must be treated as such. Hayward has had meetings with our local school district about the project, as well as other community groups, to ensure community-wide buy-in and support.

It's imperative that we provide our community members with the resources they need to exit homelessness and find permanent, safe, and affordable housing.

The City of Hayward is proud to support the Housing for All Act of 2023. You may contact our federal advocate Dante Moreno (dmoreno@capitoladvocacypartners.com) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Salinas
Mayor
City of Hayward

c. Hayward City Council
City Manager, Kelly McAdoo

