

Letters from the Public



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Established in 1978 by
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November 5, 2019

The Honorable Mayor Sam Liccardo and Council
City of San Jose
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Items 2.10 and 4.3, Downtown Residential High-Rise Fees and Citywide Development Fee Framework

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice Mayor Jones, and Honorable Councilmembers Arenas, Carrasco, Davis, Diep, Esparza, Foley, Jimenez, Khamis, and Peralez,

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, I am writing to express our support for the staff recommendation of Item 2.10 to maintain the downtown residential high-rise fee reduction through June 30, 2023 and then graduate the fee to citywide levels by June 30, 2025. We also support the staff recommendation of Item 4.3 to create a development fee framework that would provide housing developers and the public a transparent view as to how fees are calculated which would promote investment in housing creation.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 340 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax policies, economic vitality and the environment. Leadership Group members collectively provide nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

On an annual basis, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group surveys its member companies at the CEO level to find out which issues are most important to a healthy economy in Silicon Valley. Each year, housing affordability and attainability is selected as the top impediment to economic growth. The cause of our housing crunch is clear: supply has not kept pace with demand.

We agree with staff on Item 4.3 when they state that this policy will, "make the City's Development process more efficient to attract investment and spur [housing] development." These policies do not reduce investment in our affordable housing stock and parks; instead they make the creation of needed housing feasible so we can both increase the quality of life and tax base here in San Jose and Silicon Valley.

When emerging industries and high growth employers look for new locations, we know that they are looking for complete communities where employees and families can enjoy parks, retail, and transportation choices. By streamlining our housing development process, we are ensuring that San Jose continues to shape its city as one that welcomes everyone.

We look forward to working with the City to enact policies that promote housing for all incomes.

Sincerely,

Sr. Director of Housing & Community Development
Silicon Valley Leadership Group