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November 1, 2020

San Rafael City Council
1400 Fifth Ave., Rm. 209
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Mayor Phillips and Councilmembers:

Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative (MEHC) is a consortium of advocates building support for projects and policies that advance affordable housing, environmental integrity, and social justice.

We strongly support the allocation of Housing Trust funds towards the purchase of 3301 Kerner Boulevard for interim housing and then permanent supportive housing. This purchase will potentially provide some 44 units of permanent and affordable supportive housing.

We are especially pleased that this project will re-utilize an existing building for new housing rather than requiring new construction—creating less environmental impact.

Since 2017, Marin has made significant progress towards housing those experiencing chronic homelessness, finding homes for close to 200 people. However, much more is required to address the need for housing amongst this group of county residents. As of Marin's 2019 Point-In-Time Count, the county had 1,034 homeless individuals. San Rafael had 255 homeless residents, 161 of them unsheltered.

The purchase of the Kerner Boulevard property will allow the renovation and expansion of the Mill Street Shelter in San Rafael, and, when converted to supportive housing, will assist the city in meeting its very-low income housing requirements for the next RHNA cycle. San Rafael's contribution of Housing Trust fund money, in addition to the pending Project Homekey funding through the County, will model a collaborative approach to addressing homelessness on a county-wide basis.

We thank you in advance for your contributions towards ending homelessness in Marin.

Respectfully,

David Levin
Co-Chair

Sami Mericle
Co-Chair

Lindsay Lara

From: wendy t [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2020 7:37 PM
To: Lindsay Lara
Subject: Support for 3301 Kerner purchase

Hello San Rafael Mayor and Council Members,

I've lived in Marin a long time and am so heartbroken at the rising housing costs and increasing number of people who are unable to afford, safe housing here.

It is up to every elected official to do their very best to address the housing crisis at a local, regional, and federal level.

You have a special opportunity to purchase 3301 Kerner Boulevard in San Rafael for permanent supportive housing. Please do not miss this important, life-saving opportunity!

Please support this purchase with Housing Trust Funds, and collaborate with the County and Opening Doors. You can be a model for other cities and towns to do the right thing and take care of Marin County's most vulnerable residents.

Thank you,
Wendy Todd

Wendy Todd, MPH
Facilitator + Strategic Planner + Equity Activist
www.WendyToddConsulting.com

[REDACTED]

Lindsay Lara

From: Xania Bytof <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2020 8:52 PM
To: Kate Colin; Andrew McCullough; Gary Phillips; John Gamblin; Lindsay Lara; Maribeth Bushey
Subject: YES in my backyard!! - Support the Project Homekey Proposal

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

My name is Xania Bytof and I'm a lifelong resident of San Rafael. I'm writing to voice my enthusiastic support for the County of Marin's proposal to purchase and redevelop three new housing sites in Marin (Inn Marin in Novato, America's Best Value in Corte Madera, and 3301 Kerner in San Rafael) for housing for Marin's houseless residents as part of the State of California's Project Homekey program.

Everyone deserves the dignity of and fundamental right to a home. San Rafael is home to a very high number of unhoused people and it is our collective responsibility to support them. This project would provide almost 140 units of interim housing just in time for the cold winter months, and it would be highly irresponsible to let this opportunity pass us by.

Housing is a human right and a critical piece of our public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You have the opportunity to provide safe and secure long-term housing to Marin's most housing-insecure residents. You have the funding and support at the County and federal level. Please, do the right thing and support this proposal.

Yes in my backyard!!
Sincerely,

Xania Bytof

Lindsay Lara

From: Jeff Bialik [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 6:18 AM
To: Lindsay Lara
Cc: Scott Quinn
Subject: Support for 3301 Kerner Blvd. Purchase

Via email

Dear Mayor Phillips and Councilmembers:

I am a 25 year resident of San Rafael and an active member of the Marin Interfaith Council, which is a member of the Marin Organizing Committee.

I strongly support the purchase of 3301 Kerner Boulevard in San Rafael and the allocation of Housing Trust Funds for a matching grant for this purpose.

Thanks to an allocation of one-time funding through the Project Homekey program, we have a singular opportunity to take a significant step toward addressing the housing needs of our most vulnerable neighbors. We all know that the lack of safe, affordable housing in Marin was a public health crisis before COVID-19, but now it is a true emergency. Too many families and individuals are struggling to pay their rent and are only staying housed now due to temporary intervention. The purchase of 3301 Kerner Blvd. would create a permanent supportive housing solution for 44 of our residents.

My faith tradition teaches that the true measure of any public policy or initiative is whether it adds to or detracts from the common good. A safe, secure, and stable place to live is the foundation upon which a healthy community is built. All efforts to address social challenges fall short until and unless our neighbors are housed.

I ask that you work closely with the County and Opening Doors to facilitate this purchase and allocate San Rafael Housing Trust Funds to help. As a resident of San Rafael, I am immensely proud of the work our City is doing to help provide affordable housing and rental assistance so that all our residents can thrive during this difficult time.

Thank you,

Jeff Bialik
[REDACTED]
San Rafael, CA 94903