

**From:** [Palo Alto Forward](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Transitional and Permanently Affordable Housing  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 6:25:31 PM

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RE: Agenda Item #3,#9, and #10

Dear Mayor DuBois and City Council Members,

Palo Alto Forward is a non-profit organization focused on innovating and expanding housing choices and transportation mobility for a vibrant, welcoming, and sustainable Palo Alto. We are a broad coalition with a multi-generational membership, including new and longtime residents.

We support both the proposal at 525 East Charleston Road for 50 new, affordable homes with half reserved for the intellectually and developmentally disabled community members and the \$2M allocation from our local affordable housing funds for the project. The County partnership with Eden Housing that led to this proposal demonstrates a commitment to community engagement and meeting our affordable housing needs. Like many nearby cities, Palo Alto has consistently failed to meet our very low and extremely low-income housing targets. This proposal would move us in the right direction without substantial local investment.

In addition, we support the Project Homekey proposal brought forward by LifeMoves, constructing 88+ new, transitional housing units in Palo Alto. There are few other sites that could accommodate this number of units due to development cost and our low-density restrictions which need to be more flexible. Providing immediate shelter and services, while helping residents secure permanent housing, is the best way to end homelessness. We are concerned that there are a variety of transportation options available to residents to connect them to the community. This proposal is not the only solution, but it's an important interim step!

Lastly, we ask that this Council consider how policy changes, relaxing heights and FAR in our zoning and development standards, might hasten the needed development of new homes to address the housing shortage. These restrictions remain impediments. As we review proposals like those heard tonight, what steps would make this process more clear for our staff, community, and developers?

Gail A. Price  
Palo Alto Forward

**From:** [Stephen Branz](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Cc:** [Emily Young](#)  
**Subject:** Sept. 27th agenda items 3 and 10 - Housing  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 10:43:46 PM

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Date: 22 September 2021

Dear Palo Alto City Council Members,

We are writing in support of two important housing projects that are to be discussed at your September 27 meeting.

**Eden Housing:** This is a unique opportunity to provide truly affordable housing for those with developmental disabilities at a location close to beneficial services (AbilityPath, Ada's Café, bus lines on Middlefield, shopping nearby at Charleston Center, etc.). We are grateful to the County for providing the land for this project, and we strongly urge you to use your study session to determine ways to help move the project forward in a productive manner.

**LifeMoves Emergency Housing Project:** We strongly urge you to pass the resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for Project HomeKey funds to construct transitional housing for the unhoused at the North San Antonio site (similar to the program LifeMoves is running in Mountain View). We truly have an emergency shelter crisis in our City as well as the broader region; we need to step up to provide transitional housing for those in need.

The need for housing our low-income, special needs, and homeless community members are undeniable. The sites are available. Opportunities like these come along very rarely.

Both of these projects bring in outside funding while providing significant benefit to the city and some of our most needy residents. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Stephen Branz & Emily Young (cc'd),  
South Palo Alto Residents since 1980

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Stephen E. Branz, Ph.D.

(pronouns: he, him, his)

Carnegie Math Pathways Administrator Coach ([www.carnegiemathpathways.org](http://www.carnegiemathpathways.org))

Professor of Chemistry Emeritus & (former) Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

San José State University

e-mail: [stephen.branz@sjsu.edu](mailto:stephen.branz@sjsu.edu)

residing in Palo Alto on ancestral lands of the Muwekma Ohlone Indians

(<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2011/12/03/local-native-american-tribe-seeks-identity>)

**From:** [Shelley Fisher Fishkin](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Sept. 27 agenda items 3 and 10 - housing  
**Date:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:00:27 PM

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Dear Palo Alto City Council Members,

I am writing in support of two important housing projects that are to be discussed at your September 27 meeting.

Eden Housing: This is a unique opportunity to provide truly affordable housing for those with developmental disabilities at a location close to beneficial services (AbilityPath, Ada's Café, bus lines on Middlefield, shopping nearby at Charleston Center, etc.). I am grateful to the County for providing the land for this project, and I strongly urge you to use your study session to determine ways to help move the project forward in a productive manner. Please make this happen!

LifeMoves Emergency Housing Project: I strongly urge you to pass the resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for Project HomeKey funds to construct transitional housing for the unhoused at the North San Antonio site (similar to the program LifeMoves is running in Mountain View). We truly have an emergency shelter crisis in our City as well as the broader region; we need to step up to provide transitional housing for those in need. Please make these happen as well.

Both of these projects bring in outside funding while providing significant benefit to the city and some of our most needy residents. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support. Palo Alto will benefit greatly from both of these initiatives!

Sincerely,

Shelley Fishkin

**From:** [Elizabeth Ratner](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** September 27 agenda items 3 and 10  
**Date:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 2:26:49 PM

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Dear Mayor DuBois and council members,

Item 3. We strongly support the Eden housing development for disabled adults and other low income tenants at Charleston and Middlefield Rd. in Palo Alto. The need for such housing in our city is great. The location — next to Mitchell Park, recreation, shopping, and bus lines will minimize the need for cars. We are neighbors of this project.

We also support the use of public land to create affordable housing, as this project does using Santa Clara county land. We urge the city to be creative and find public land, such as parking lots, to build affordable housing for those people the market rate developers are not serving.

Item 10 We also strongly support having the city apply for Home Key funds for the Interim Supportive Housing project on San Antonio Rd. The need for this type of housing is great.

Lisa Ratner  
Jim Fox

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kobayashi, Alex](#)  
**To:** [Clerk, City](#); [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** 09/27 Council Meeting, item 10 - letter from Senator Becker  
**Date:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 4:46:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [LifeMoves - Palo Alto.pdf](#)

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Please find the attached letter from Senator Becker regarding Project HomeKey.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

ALEX KOBAYASHI, District Representative  
Office of State Senator Josh Becker  
1528 South El Camino Real, Suite 303  
San Mateo, CA 94402

(office) 650.212.3313

(cell) 650.254.6660

# California State Senate

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SENATOR  
**JOSH BECKER**

THIRTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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VICE CHAIR  
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

September 23, 2021

Hon. Tom DuBois, Mayor  
City of Palo Alto  
250 Hamilton Ave  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Mayor DuBois and Councilmembers:

I am pleased to support a partnership between the City of Palo Alto and LifeMoves, and I encourage the City to apply for funds through the State's Project HomeKey Program.

Our community is a better place when everyone has a safe place to live - our streets and parks are cleaner and safer, public health is improved, caseloads for our public safety officers are reduced and conditions for our local businesses are improved.

Project HomeKey's efforts can also provide significant financial benefits. A 2015 study by Destination: Home found that services to homeless residents cost Santa Clara County more than \$500 million per year and that providing housing opportunities for the persistently homeless could save tens of thousands of dollars per resident.

As you may know, earlier this year LifeMoves partnered with the City of Mountain View to develop and open a Project HomeKey site serving more than 120 in their 100 units. I am confident that a partnership between LifeMoves and the City of Palo Alto can be just as successful.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important project. I look forward to supporting these efforts in any way I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and last name "Becker" clearly distinguishable.

Josh Becker  
State Senator, 13th District

**From:** [Patti Schaffer](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** September 27 agenda items 3 and 10 - housing  
**Date:** Saturday, September 25, 2021 2:25:32 PM

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Dear Palo Alto City Council Members,

Two important housing projects are to be discussed at the September 27th meeting. These are Eden housing and LifeMoves Emergency Housing Project. Palo Alto's most needy will benefit as will the whole city.

I urge you to support both of these projects.

Sincerely,

Patti Schaffer



**From:** [Sara Selis](#)  
**To:** [Council, City](#)  
**Subject:** Sept. 27 council meeting agenda - items 3 and 10 - housing  
**Date:** Sunday, September 26, 2021 11:01:30 PM

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Dear Palo Alto City Council-

I am writing in support of two important housing projects that will be discussed at your September 27 meeting.

Eden Housing: This is a unique opportunity to provide truly affordable housing for those with developmental disabilities at a location close to beneficial services (AbilityPath, Ada's Café, bus lines on Middlefield, shopping nearby at Charleston Center, etc.). I urge you to move the project forward in a productive manner.

LifeMoves Emergency Housing Project: I urge you to pass the resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for Project HomeKey funds to construct transitional housing for the unhoused at the North San Antonio site (similar to the program LifeMoves is running in Mountain View). We truly have an emergency shelter crisis in our City as well as the broader region; we need to step up to provide transitional housing for those in need.

Both of these projects bring in outside funding while providing significant benefit to the city and some of our most needy residents. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,  
Sara Selis (have lived and worked in Mountain View and Palo Alto for the last 26 years)