



Mayor Sam Liccardo, City of San José and Members of the San José City Council
via email, sent Nov. 4, 2019

re: Agenda item 4.2: Report on the Cost of Residential Development;
Agenda item 4.3: Development Fee Framework Update;
Agenda item 4.4: Inclusionary Housing Ordinance Proposed Revisions.

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers,

The District 6 Neighborhood Leaders Group (D6NLG), an association established over a decade ago, is comprised of officers, boardmembers and involved community representatives from the multitude of neighborhood associations across District 6 in San José. After discussion at tonight's monthly meeting, the members attending voted to approve the writing of this letter.

As we stated in our letter dated August 5th of this year, we in District 6 are aware of the housing issue, but are also concerned that efforts to simplify the permitting and fee structure to encourage housing may have a negative impact to the city's park system.

Once again we write to reaffirm our support for parks. As we said before, this is not an "either-or" choice: the city can support both housing and parks. Parks are critical for everyone so that they can have the benefit of sunlight, fresh air, exercise, and interpersonal interaction.

We agree with the memo on 4.3 by Councilmember Jimenez. We agree that "the development related fees within the Framework must continue to mitigate the impacts of new development on the demand for parks, affordable housing, transportation infrastructure, and other amenities and services, as intended at the adoption of each fee"; that the result "be revenue neutral for each fee and tax"; and that "any fee and tax reductions (or increases) should be evaluated and considered separately from this work."

This is not a process that can be rushed! We recognize that permits and fee structures for large projects in a city as large as ours can be complicated and may well warrant simplification, but we are worried that the simplification process may result in unintended consequences. We have only recently had access to the nearly 300 pages of consultant reports and staff analyses; we have not had time to thoroughly analyze them; and we are unaware of any public workshops or presentations to help us in the public become more informed on the matter. We've heard that fee simplification has been done elsewhere, but have also heard that the process involved years of public outreach. We offer to host a public outreach at one of our D6NLG meetings.

Parks are important to us! Please take the time to work with the public to properly review this all!

Thank you.

James Rincon, Chair, D6NLG

cc: City Clerk; City Manager; PRNS Dir.; SJ Parks Advocates; SJ Parks & Rec Commission