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DESTINATION: **HOME**

September 4th, 2018

Honorable Board President Joe Simitian and
Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 W. Hedding Street, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: September 11, 2018 BOS meeting - Measure A Funding Allocations

Dear Board President Simitian, and Supervisors Chavez, Cortese, Wasserman, and Yeager:

On behalf of Destination: Home, I write to urge you to continue to support the successful implementation of the Measure A Affordable Housing Bond and the vital supportive housing it has created over the past two years for the most vulnerable residents.

Since its approval by voters in 2016, the Bond has provided \$111,030,000 in funding to support 10 housing developments and 817 apartments in six cities throughout Santa Clara County. As a part of the Community Plan to End Homelessness, the Board of Supervisors, including Destination: Home Honorary Advisory Council members Dave Cortese and Mike Wasserman, have been the champions of a once in a lifetime effort that will result in 6,000 new supportive housing opportunities in the region.

As a core value, all of the housing funded through the Bond has focused on one inclusive principle: providing homes with supportive services for the most vulnerable people in Santa Clara County. With the housing crisis reaching catastrophic levels and over 7,300 people still on the streets, the need to provide safe places to live for unhoused veterans, seniors, youth, mentally ill, disabled adults, families, victims of abuse, and many others remains as critically important today as when Measure A was passed two years ago. While there are many differing needs amongst these populations, the County has worked tirelessly over the past two years to build a supportive housing system that offers coordinated assessment of vulnerability, clear funding guidelines and goals, and robust services to ensure that housing is being built to serve those who need our help the most as quickly as possible.

The results of this collaborative and thoughtful work have been nothing short of remarkable. In Cupertino, Mountain View, Santa Clara, San Jose, Morgan Hill, and Gilroy, supportive housing developments are all underway with hundreds of apartments for youth, seniors, families, and veterans. Three new 100% permanent supportive housing sites - Renascent Place, Villas on the Park, and

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Second Street Studios - are all scheduled to open within the next 18 months. All of these new units will accept direct resident referral from the County based on greatest need, highest vulnerability, and, tragically, the likelihood of death without an adequate housing intervention.

With that in mind, however, it should be noted that the current work has been highly successful in creating an environment of inclusion, where a diverse set of individuals and families can finally find permanent homes. For example, within the County's supportive housing programs, there are 195 households in which at least one person reports having a developmental disability. Of those households, 119 are housed and 76 are working to secure permanent housing. Many of those same people will be referred Second Street Studios when it opens its 134 new apartments later this year. This inclusive focus is meeting the greatest needs first while also creating new homes for extremely low income households across our community. It is imperative that we continue to create supportive environments where people with diverse needs, ranging from disabilities to victims of abuse, can live together and thrive.

Lastly, while supportive housing should remain a central focus of the work of the County, it is also important to remember that the Housing Bond was designed to create a range of housing opportunities for very and extremely low income individuals and families. We believe the current structure allows for an inclusive approach that is working to find solutions for the most vulnerable residents in complexes built where people of mixed incomes, different backgrounds, and varying needs for support can all live together. Solutions to meet the housing needs of the target communities represented in the Bond exist right now; through communication and collaboration we can forge a path forward together without eroding the intent of Measure A.

We ask that our developers, cities and the County work together to fulfill the intent of Measure A without dividing it up and pitting one vulnerable population against another.

Thank you for your vision, partnership, and tireless efforts.

In partnership,

Jennifer Loving
CEO
Destination: Home