




City Council Meeting

RTC 24-1079
Action on the Carryover of FY 2023/24 Funding for the Operation of a 30-unit (90-private bedrooms) Homekey Interim Housing Development on Santa Clara County-Owned Land Located at Lawrence Expressway and Benton Street

October 29, 2024

1

Carryover Funds for Lawrence/Benton Homekey Project



City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Background


- Homekey is a State initiative to rapidly expand housing for those experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Projects are granted funding and streamlined process.
- Interim housing supports the transition from homelessness to permanent housing
- Homekey awards are issued by State's Housing & Community Development (HCD)
- November 2021 – County Board directed County Office of Supportive Housing (OSH) to identify potential sites for interim housing
- November 9, 2021 – City Council study session on potential HomeKey applications with Bella Vista and White Oak Lane. Council provided direction to continue working with LifeMoves to identify a Santa Clara site
- April – October 2022 – Homelessness Taskforce identified need for interim housing

2

POST MEETING MATERIAL

1

Carryover Funds for Lawrence/Benton Homekey Project




City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Background

- January 10, 2023 – City Council direction to conduct outreach and explore interim housing at the Lawrence/Benton site
- February – March 2023 – Community Outreach Meetings
- May 2, 2023 – City Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate a three-party letter of intent and to appropriate funding in the Annual Budget Review
- June 27, 2023 – City Council Adopted FY 23/24 Operating Budget, appropriated funds to the Lawrence/Benton project
- July 2023 – County submitted Homekey application for Lawrence/Benton project to State's HCD
- April 3, 2024 – City Council identified Providing Interim Supportive Housing and Outreach Services for Unhoused as a Council Priority

3

Carryover Funds for Lawrence/Benton Homekey Project



City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Homekey Program Update

- HCD has awarded \$818,000,000 to 49 projects since 2023
- HCD is interested in funding the Lawrence/Benton Project
- HCD requested funding identified in the Homekey application be reconfirmed
- HCD intends to close out Homekey Round 3
- Next Program Homekey+ is not for families or interim housing but for permanent supportive housing for veterans or individuals with mental health or substance use challenges

4

Carryover Funds for Lawrence/Benton Homekey Project



City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Lawrence/Benton Project Description

- Site Area: 1.3 acres
- 30 Family units with kitchenettes and bathrooms
- Priority for Santa Clara
- 3-story
- Transitional housing
- Support services
- Outdoor recreational area
- 52 parking spaces



5

Carryover Funds for Lawrence/Benton Homekey Project



City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Project Modifications in Response to Community Input






124 units – singles & couples
4-stories

30 units – families
3-stories

6

Carryover Funds for Lawrence/Benton Homekey Project



City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Data on Unhoused Families


Data on Unhoused Households with Children (2023-2024)

	City of Santa Clara	Santa Clara County
Total Unhoused Households in Community Housing Queue	307	5,110
Unhoused Households with Children	90 (29%)	365 (7%)

Sources: January 2023 Point In Time Report and 2024 City of Santa Clara Report, FY 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024).

7

Carryover Funds for Lawrence/Benton Homekey Project




City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Construction Cost

- **Total Construction:** **\$35.1M**
 - Project Homekey: \$22.5M
 - LifeMoves: \$10M
 - County: \$2.6M

8

Carryover Funds for Benton/Lawrence Homekey Project




City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Operation Cost

- **Operations: \$3.75M Annual Operating Cost**
 - County: \$9.2M total
 - LifeMoves: \$7M total
 - City of Santa Clara: \$6.59M total to be used within initial 7 years (Local Funds + State PLHA)
 - Project Homekey: \$4M total

9

Carryover Funds for Lawrence/Benton Homekey Project



City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Next Steps

- County & LifeMoves Final Agreements to implement the Project to include:
 - Grant Agreement with HCD
 - Ground lease
 - Project Construction Agreement with Contractor
- City Council approval of Funding Agreement between City, County, and Life Moves
 - Business terms formalized for City's funding
 - Limit City's financial obligations to \$6.59M for operations
 - Require City approval for any other use than family interim housing
 - Require City approval of Project Operations and Security Plan
 - Require a Community Advisory Committee
 - Indemnity, Insurance, & other Remedies to protect City/neighborhood interests

10



Recommendation

1. Approve the FY 2024/25 budget amendment in the City Affordable Housing Fund, recognizing an increase to the beginning fund balance in the amount of \$5,124,369 and increasing the capital outlay appropriation in the amount of \$5,124,369 (**five affirmative Council votes required for the use of unused balances**)
2. Allocate the remaining balance of \$1,470,000 in PLHA funds (for a total City contribution of \$6,594,369) to secure state Homekey Round 3 funds to construct a three story 30-unit interim family housing development on a County-owned site at Lawrence Expressway and Benton Street

11




City Council Meeting

RTC 24-1079
 Action on the Carryover of FY 2023/24 Funding for the Operation of a 30-unit (90-private bedrooms) Homekey Interim Housing Development on Santa Clara County-Owned Land Located at Lawrence Expressway and Benton Street

October 29, 2024


12

Carryover Funds for Lawrence/Benton Homekey Project




City of
Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Project Site



13



City of
Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Community Outreach

- January 23, 2023 : City Council Study Session on Housing Element
- February 13, 2023 : Virtual Community Meeting
- March 1, 2023 : In-person Community Meeting
- March 9, 2023 : In-person Community Meeting
- March 22, 2023 : Virtual Community Meeting
- Mailed Notices (1,000 foot radius) + Social Media
- County Website: <https://osh.sccgov.org/project-homekey-scc/benton>

14

Lawrence-Benton Homekey Project

The Role of "Interim Housing"

- One type of supportive housing
- Fulfills two of the twelve Homelessness Task Force priorities
- Fills a gap in the services available in Santa Clara
- Resembles an apartment building with additional services

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SYSTEM MAP IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

The map shows a flowchart of the supportive housing system. At the top are 'Homelessness Prevention' and 'Outreach'. 'Homelessness Prevention' leads to 'Affordable Housing Development' and 'Coordinated Assessment System'. 'Outreach' leads to 'Emergency Shelter' and 'Coordinated Assessment System'. 'Affordable Housing Development' leads to 'Coordinated Assessment System'. 'Coordinated Assessment System' leads to 'Permanent Supportive Housing', 'Transitional Housing', and 'Rapid Rehousing'. 'Emergency Shelter' leads to 'Transitional Housing' and 'Rapid Rehousing'. 'Permanent Supportive Housing' leads to 'Transitional Housing'. 'Transitional Housing' leads to 'Rapid Rehousing'. 'Rapid Rehousing' leads to 'Permanent Supportive Housing'. A red box highlights the 'Transitional Housing' section.

Homelessness Prevention

- Helps individuals and families who are about to lose their housing to retain housing when they are or move to new permanent housing
- Acts as an access point to the Coordinated Assessment System

Outreach

- Engages with people experiencing homelessness on the street, in parks and other public spaces, and in vehicles
- Acts as an access point for the Coordinated Assessment System and for emergency shelter
- Locates people in the Coordinated Assessment System who have been referred to a housing program

Affordable Housing Development

Construction of new affordable housing provides a path to long-term housing stability for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and helps avoid future instances of homelessness caused by extreme housing costs.

Coordinated Assessment System

- Acts as a front door to the community's housing resources
- Matches people experiencing homelessness to the community's transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing programs

Emergency Shelter

- Provides a safe place to sleep for people experiencing homelessness
- Provides meals, showers, other basic needs, and connections to other community resources
- Acts as an access point to the Coordinated Assessment System

Permanent Supportive Housing

Helps individuals and families with disabilities maintain permanent housing through long-term rental subsidies, connections to medical and behavioral health care, and other services.

Transitional Housing

Provides temporary housing and wrap-around services for people experiencing homelessness; a program model most effective for specific subpopulations, such as:

- Youth, especially Pregnant Youth
- Veterans
- Homeless individuals and families enrolled in a permanent housing program and searching for apartments

Rapid Rehousing

- Provides supportive services and financial assistance to people experiencing homelessness
- Helps individuals and families obtain permanent housing and increase income so that they can remain housed independently

15

Lawrence-Benton Homekey Project

City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

2 Units per "Module"

Modular Plans
Family Unit with kitchenettes- Flexible Back-to-Back Module
Unit Net area: 377sf

Exterior Doors
6 per Module x 15 Modules

The diagram shows a floor plan of a building with 15 modules. Each module contains two units. Red boxes highlight the exterior doors for each module. A vertical line runs through the center of the building, and a horizontal line runs through the middle of the modules.

16



Lawrence-Benton Homekey Project

3-Party Letter of Intent (City, County and LifeMoves)

- Defines each party's roles, rights and obligations
- Suggested key terms to negotiate for City's benefit to include:
 - Limit City financial obligations to \$6.59 million over 7 years of operations
 - City prior approval required for any use other than family serving interim housing
 - City approval and oversight of a Project Operations and Security Plan and add Oversight Committee
 - Indemnity, Insurance and other Remedies to protect City/neighborhood interests
- Final Agreements to implement the Project expected to include:
 - Grant Agreement (HCD and Project Sponsors)
 - Ground lease (County and LifeMoves)
 - Project Construction Agreement (Project Sponsors and Contractor)
 - Operations and Funding Agreement(s) (County, LifeMoves and City of Santa Clara)

10/29/2024

Item #1

From: Patrick Keegan
To: Mayor and Council; Lisa Gillmor; Kathy Watanabe; Sudhanshu Jain; Karen Hardy; Kevin Park; Raj Chahal; Anthony Becker
Subject: Benton Homeless Shelter
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024 5:15:08 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pkeegan32@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Do not support this! It is the wrong thing to do, at the wrong place, at the wrong time.

Patrick Keegan

POST MEETING MATERIAL

From: [Ratendra Pandey](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Lisa Gillmor](#); [Kathy Watanabe](#); [Sudhanshu Jain](#); [Karen Hardy](#); [Kevin Park](#); [Raj Chahal](#); [Anthony Becker](#)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024 11:09:21 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pandey@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Please look for an alternative site for a homeless center.

Please do not approve the homeless shelter at Benton Street and Lawrence Expressway in Santa Clara.

Sincerely,
Ratendra Pandey

From: [Rui Zhang](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Lisa Gillmor](#); [Kathy Watanabe](#); [Sudhanshu Jain](#); [Karen Hardy](#); [Kevin Park](#); [Raj Chahal](#); [Anthony Becker](#)
Subject: Concerns Over Proposed Project Homekey Shelter and Financial Impact
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024 5:51:54 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from r.zhangau@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Santa Clara City Council Members,

I am writing to let you know about my concerns about the proposed Project Homekey shelter in our community. While I appreciate the council's commitment to addressing homelessness, this project raises several pressing concerns that merit careful consideration. I urge the council to re-evaluate the proposal based on the following key issues:

1. Financial Pressure on an Already Burdened Budget

Our city currently carries a debt burden of \$600 million. Adding the operational and maintenance costs of a new shelter will only place further strain on our finances. I question whether additional financial obligations for this project are sustainable, especially given the other critical needs that require funding.

2. Potential Safety Risks

The planned shelter is a low-barrier facility, which may pose potential safety concerns for residents in the surrounding community. While I support efforts to assist unhoused individuals, I believe this approach may unintentionally lead to safety issues that could adversely impact neighborhood stability and quality of life.

3. Fiscal Health and the Upcoming Bond Measure

If the city believes it can afford to operate and maintain this shelter, this could suggest our finances are healthier than perceived. Should this be the case, then the proposed \$400 million Bond Measure I, which would increase public debt, may be unnecessary. I encourage transparency and a re-evaluation of the city's fiscal priorities before committing to new expenditures that might not align with residents' needs.

Given these concerns, I respectfully request that the council reconsider moving forward with the Project Homekey shelter in its current form. I also ask for greater transparency in addressing these points, as they have significant implications for our city's financial future and public safety.

Thank you for considering our views. I look forward to a thoughtful dialogue on this matter and a solution that best serves our entire community.

Sincerely,

Rui

Santa Clara Resident

From: [Liya Leah Ye](#)
To: [Liya Leah Ye](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding the Benton Shelter Project
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024 9:08:23 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ye.289@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed shelter project in our community. While I understand the need for solutions to homelessness, I believe it is crucial to address the implications of this Benton Shelter project on our city and its residents.

1. Financial Pressure: The city is already facing a significant debt of \$600 million. I am worried that the additional costs associated with operating and maintaining the shelter could further strain our city's finances. We need to prioritize fiscal responsibility to ensure the long-term stability of our community.

2. Safety Risks: The proposed low-barrier shelter raises safety concerns for the surrounding community. It is essential to consider the impact on local residents and businesses, as well as the potential for increased incidents that could affect the quality of life in our neighborhood.

3. Questioning Fiscal Health: If the city is in a position to fund a new shelter, does this indicate a healthy financial standing? This raises questions about the necessity of the proposed \$400 million Bond Measure I. Should we not reconsider our priorities and potentially oppose this measure, given the current economic climate?

I urge you to take these concerns into consideration as discussions about the shelter project continue. It is vital for us to work together to ensure that our community remains safe, financially sound, and supportive of all its residents.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Liya (Leah) Ye
ye.289@hotmail.com | mobile: (253) 245-8293

From: [Echeng Cheng](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Benton Homeless Shelter Project
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2024 3:19:55 PM

You don't often get email from echeng001@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor,

I am writing to express my strong concerns about the proposed homeless shelter on Benton Street, a project that was initially raised over a year and a half ago and overwhelmingly opposed by residents at that time. Given the prior decision, I question what new evidence or changes justify bringing this proposal back for discussion.

If implemented, the shelter's low-barrier entry model—with no ID verification requirements—introduces significant safety concerns for the surrounding community. The lack of screening and mixed accommodations could lead to an environment that poses risks for both shelter residents and nearby neighborhoods. As residents, we seek assurance that our safety is a top priority in any decision regarding this project.

Additionally, the city is already managing a high level of debt, and the additional operational and maintenance costs could further strain our resources. I urge the council to carefully assess the long-term financial impact this shelter could have on Santa Clara's fiscal health.

I hope the council will take our concerns into account as it considers this project on October 29.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Ester Cheng
Cabrillo Ave homeowner

From: Megan Fincher
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Project Homekey - Lawrence and Benton - Homeless issues in Santa Clara
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2024 11:20:55 PM

[You don't often get email from meganfincher@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello Mayor and Council,

I just learned about this project on Nextdoor. It seems that many people oppose this due to "safety or financial concerns". However, I am very excited to hear about this project, and I believe safety and finances can be managed by the experts.

I was born and raised in Santa Clara, and I'm thankful that I have never been homeless. But I speak to homeless people around our city, and I know many individuals who need housing and case management. I would like to share a few stories.

There is a woman named Candie who lives in her car in a parking lot in my neighborhood. She applied for housing assistance over a year ago, but has yet to receive any support. Her children attend school in Santa Clara, but they live with a family member since she does not have housing. She has struggled a lot, including with drug addiction, but has been clean over two years. She got a job at McDonald's and has been working hard to improve her life. But there are days where the struggle is overwhelming. If you can provide support, it would mean the world to her, and her children.

There is a man named Ramon who often stays in Central Park, but sometimes goes closer to Lawrence Expwy. If you saw him, you might not realize that he's homeless because he takes good care of his appearance, but then you may see him carrying a suitcase wherever he goes. He stays to himself, and doesn't cause any trouble, or drink or do drugs, and is so kind and humble. Yet he was attacked at a 7-11 in September, for simply asking for help. He lost his housing a few years ago, but doesn't have access or knowledge of resources to get back on his feet.

There is another man named Steven who usually stays behind Dennys by City Hall, but frequents Panera and Pete's coffee for a place to sit and access the internet on his tablet. I helped him with clothing and luggage many months ago, but it was later stolen by another homeless person, so I helped him again. He is so gracious and resilient. He has access to a case manager in Mountain View, but has no support in Santa Clara.

All of these people need support. They need case managers and help to get back on their feet. They need cell phones, safety, and other basic needs. They are not dangerous. I see them often enough to know them by name, and I help them in any way that I can. Sometimes I buy them food, other times I help with clothes, hygiene, and other essentials, or just kindness and encouragement. When I am out with my children and I see them, I introduce them to my children. These are not people to be scared of.

I do understand that community members are worried about safety and financials. However, I believe that these issues can be managed, and helping the homeless should be a financial priority. It's sad that many people paint the homeless as dangerous. Many won't even talk to homeless people, almost as if homelessness is contagious. Sure there are some who are dangerous, on drugs, or commit crimes, but that applies to people with housing as well.

In September, I volunteered with church friends to serve the homeless in St. James Park in San Jose. Over the course of 4 Friday afternoons, we served over 400 people with food, toiletries, clothing, blankets, and more. I witnessed the needs first hand, and heard many stories of individuals and families struggling with homelessness. I see homeless people in Santa Clara every day, and I'm sure you do too. But I don't know of any places in Santa Clara where they can get help. I have called homeless resource lines for some of these people in Santa Clara, and the resource lines tell me to have the people call or go to offices in San Jose. However, most of these homeless people do not have phones or transportation, so they have no way to call or access the services.

I really hope that you can find a way to make this program happen and help homeless individuals and families as soon as possible. Some residents may be against it, but I beg you to do what's right. These people need help. In addition to this, I ask you to consider other ways to reach out to the homeless in our city, and assist them with basic services like cell phones and case managers. And lastly, when you see a homeless person, smile and say hello. Treat them with dignity and respect.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Megan Fincher

From: [Aigul K.](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: I'm against the Benton Shelter
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 11:13:52 AM

You don't often get email from aigul312@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

We are residents of the area where you want the shelter, if it happens you will destroy this place, where youngsters are living, and most of them go to the nearby Pomeroy Elementary School. It will be covered by the syringes, garbage, and poop. It's going to be second San Francisco, dying City. The city already carries a debt of 600 million. Hope you will not do this.

With regards Aigul Pulatova, Tilek Mursaliev resident of Catalina Apartments
+8565807455

From: [RS](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: Benton Homeless Shelter Project
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 11:23:01 AM

You don't often get email from sharmarv@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am a Santa Clara resident and I am against the building of Benton Shelter Project.

Sincerely,

Ravi Sharma
408-246-3154

From: [Kevin Heller](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: support for benton/lawrence housing project
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 11:24:33 AM

You don't often get email from kevinwilliamheller@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing as a resident, parent, and community member to express my full support for the Benton/Lawrence Interim Housing Project. I appreciate the time and effort the Council has put into advancing this initiative, an essential step in addressing our community's housing needs and ensuring that families and children have the safety and stability they deserve.

This opportunity to secure HomeKey grant funding for the project is something we cannot afford to overlook. I'm grateful for the partnerships with the county, Sobrato, and other stakeholders that make this project one of the most efficient uses of resources to serve our city's most vulnerable residents.

While I recognize that funding concerns may be a factor for some, but the cost of not providing safe housing for families and children is far greater. Stable housing is the foundation upon which community well-being is built, and by earmarking funds toward this project, Santa Clara is taking an inspiring step to secure that foundation.

As a member of this community, I am committed to supporting this project and the work of this Council to make our city a place where every family has the opportunity to thrive. Thank you for considering this crucial initiative, and for your ongoing dedication to the people of Santa Clara.

Kind regards,
Kevin Heller-Antrim, EdD

From: Sarah Jabin
To: Mayor and Council; Lisa Gillmor; Kathy Watanabe; Sudhanshu Jain; Karen Hardy; Kevin Park; Raj Chahal; Anthony Becker
Subject: Re: Benton Shelter Project
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 11:46:51 AM

[You don't often get email from sarah_jabin18@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Good Morning City Council Members,

As a lifelong resident of the City of Santa Clara, I would like to express that I am against the Benton Shelter Project. The location chosen is not near public transportation, an individual would have to walk through residential neighborhoods (condensed apartment complexes housing primarily families with small children) and single family homes to get to the nearest bus station, which is the ONLY mode of public transportation in this area. There are also already 2 smaller houseless shelters within a half mile radius. Residents from these shelters already wander through the neighborhood, including my current gated complex in which there was on a couple occasions house less people were rummaging through trash. Having a larger complex in the vicinity will cause further issues.

The shelter is also near a couple parks and elementary schools - which can pose a safety concern as there will be a no identification requirement - this can attract those who are not on parole with certain criminal offenses that may pose a danger to the public and children.

I hope the City will take these issues into consideration when considering this project.

Regards,

Sarah

From: [J Pan](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: Opposed to Benton Shelter
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 12:50:11 PM

You don't often get email from jaccard.ceo@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Santa Clara City Council,

Please vote NO to Benton Shelter on the city council meeting.

We are told Santa Clara City is under financial pressure now. The city is carrying \$600 million in debt. The additional Benton Shelter will worsen our financial position by its construction cost and maintenance cost. In addition, it will increase the load of community facilities, and safety and health measures accordingly. Located within walking distances to dozens of schools, daycares, public playgrounds, and senior homes, the safety of the local community is always a big concern. The shelter will cost much more than it appears right now.

If the city had the capacity to fund a new shelter, there is no reason I believe we need Measure I to raise an additional \$400 million Bond.

Please vote NO to refuse contribution to the built, operation and maintenance cost of Benton Shelter.

I am counting on you!

Best Regards,
Jiayi Pan
Registered Voter at City of Santa Clara

From: [Benny Fong](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Lisa Gillmor](#)
Subject: Please vote NO to Benton Shelter on Oct 29, 2024
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 1:41:26 PM

Hello Mayor Gillmor:

Please vote NO to Benton Shelter at the city council meeting. Your voters will appreciate it.

We are told Santa Clara City is under financial pressure now. The city is carrying \$600 million in debt. The additional Benton Shelter will worsen our financial position by its construction cost and maintenance cost. In addition, it will increase the load of community facilities, and safety and health measures accordingly. Located within walking distances to dozens of schools, daycares, public playgrounds, and senior homes, the safety of the local community is always a big concern. The shelter will cost much more than it appears right now.

If the city had the capacity to fund a new shelter, there is no reason that we need Measure I to raise an additional \$400 million Bond.

Please vote NO to refuse contribution to the built, operation and maintenance cost of Benton Shelter. It should be funded solely on the State level.

I am counting on you!

Best Regards,

Benny Fong

Registered Voter at City of Santa Clara

From: [Debbie Dempsey](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: Benton Shelter Project
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 2:09:37 PM

Mayor and Council,

I live within the 10 mile radius of the proposed Benton Shelter Project and **strongly oppose** the project. Already many of my neighbors on Shafer Drive have moved and those homes are currently occupied by young families with very young children. To my knowledge the City has done nothing to assure us of our safety and the safety of our property.

Homelessness is not a shelter issue but a mental health issue that is not being properly addressed.

The idea that you plan to introduce homelessness, drug use, and crime close to my home at a time when the city is already \$600 million in debt is abhorrent.

Put that homeless shelter in an area AWAY from residential area. You took away my Santa Clara golf course which would have been the perfect location for such a project.

Vote NO!

Deborah Dempsey
3535 Shafer Drive
Santa Clara

From: [Judy Crates](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Lisa Gillmor](#); [Kathy Watanabe](#); [Sudhanshu Jain](#); [Karen Hardy](#); [Kevin Park](#); [Raj Chahal](#); [Anthony Becker](#)
Subject: Benton and Lawrence Plan - Let's Be Realistic
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 4:05:27 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from judycrates@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

I live across Lawrence .5 miles from this project (still in the City of SC) so this isn't a NIMBY email. I am compelled to write this because there are so many reasons NOT to approve this plan, but here are the most

1. **Egress from this complex.** Have you done a traffic study during the busiest time of day? Benton is one of the major thoroughfares for access to Santa Clara High School. Traffic is heavy during rush hours and almost impossible to turn left out of the proposed complex. And turning left and then trying to go towards El Camino is a recipe for an accident. I have walked and watched. It is not realistic to think that entry and exit won't be dangerous.

2. **Pedestrian access** is unacceptable from Lawrence. Anyone trying to walk along Lawrence Expressway is another recipe for disaster. I have walked it (once) and it is truly frightening. You try walking it.

3. **Inability to fill housing spots that are available nearby.** Remember the **Bella Vista Motel** on El Camino?

In the Silicon Valley Voice **4/12/22** Klein the Associate Director of Real Estate Development at Resources for Community Development (RCD), one of several local agencies working together to complete the two-step process.

"During Phase I of the project, Bella Vista Inn will undergo minor renovations to make it suitable homeless housing for the next few years. **64 of the site's 66 units will be turned into interim housing, with the other two rooms designated for laundry, on-site property management** and support services.

I walk by this site almost daily and it is **VACANT** except for a half dozen vehicles. There is never anyone around. The laundry room is in. The office is a couple of tables with minimal technology.

Almost **3 years later** and nothing!

4. **Lack of transparency on the part of Council and Staff** - Did you know that the City's [website](#) is NOT UPDATED for Agenda Item for Oct. 29??

Please stop this nonsense!

Very sincerely,

Judy Crates
Resident and home owner in the City of Santa Clara

From: [Deepak Kollipara](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Lisa Gillmor](#); [Kathy Watanabe](#); [Sudhanshu Jain](#); [Karen Hardy](#); [Kevin Park](#); [Raj Chahal](#); [Anthony Becker](#)
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 4:43:26 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from deepak.kollipara@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council Members of Santa Clara,

I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of our city's finances and the proposal for Benton low entry barrier interim housing, which may further strain our budget.

1. **Deficit Concerns:** As you know, the city is currently facing a substantial deficit of \$600 million. This raises serious questions about our fiscal priorities and sustainability.
2. **Interim Housing Costs:** The maintenance and operational costs associated with the proposed shelter will likely exacerbate this deficit, placing further strain on our city's financial resources.
3. **Safety for Families:** The current shelter proposal remains a low-barrier facility, which does not address the need for a safe and secure environment for families seeking shelter.
4. **Bond Measure Opposition:** If the city has the resources to manage an additional shelter, it suggests there is more budget flexibility than previously indicated. This, in turn, calls into question the necessity of issuing a new \$400 million bond. For these reasons, I will be voting "no" on *Measure I*.

I urge you and the council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize a more balanced, financially responsible approach.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,
Deepak Rama
1593 Vireo Ave, Sunnyvale CA 94087

From: [Phil L](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: Grave Concerns About Benton Low Entry Barrier Interim Housing Project!
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 5:20:15 PM

[You don't often get email from yixin.lou26@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Mayor & City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of our city's finances and the proposal for Benton low entry barrier interim housing, which may further strain our budget.

Deficit Concerns: As you know, the city is currently facing a substantial deficit of \$600 million. This raises serious questions about our fiscal priorities and sustainability.

Interim Housing Costs: The maintenance and operational costs associated with the proposed shelter will likely exacerbate this deficit, placing further strain on our city's financial resources.

Safety for Families: The current shelter proposal remains a low-barrier facility, which does not address the need for a safe and secure environment for families seeking shelter.

Bond Measure Opposition: If the city has the resources to manage an additional shelter, it suggests there is more budget flexibility than previously indicated. This, in turn, calls into question the necessity of issuing a new \$400 million bond. For these reasons, I will be voting "no" on Measure I.

I urge you and the council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize a more balanced, financially responsible approach.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,
Yixin Lou
465 S Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94086
yixin.lou26@gmail.com
9176571039

From: [Xiangfei Zhou](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Lisa Gillmor](#); [Kathy Watanabe](#); [Sudhanshu Jain](#); [Karen Hardy](#); [Kevin Park](#); [Raj Chahal](#)
Subject: Concerns on City Finances and Benton Interim Housing Proposal
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 7:49:28 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from zxf092@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of our city's finances and the proposal for Benton low-entry barrier interim housing, which may further strain our budget.

Deficit Concerns: As you know, the city is currently facing a substantial deficit of \$600 million. This raises serious questions about our fiscal priorities and long-term sustainability.

Interim Housing Costs: The maintenance and operational expenses associated with the proposed shelter are likely to exacerbate this deficit, placing additional strain on our city's financial resources.

Safety for Families: The shelter proposal remains a low-barrier facility, which does not adequately address the need for a safe, secure environment for families seeking shelter.

Bond Measure Opposition: If the city has resources to manage an additional shelter, this suggests more budget flexibility than previously indicated. Consequently, it raises questions about the necessity of issuing a new \$400 million bond. For these reasons, I will be reconsidering Measure I.

I urge you and the council to revisit this proposal and prioritize a more balanced, financially responsible approach.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,
Frey
Resident in Birdland.

From: [Julie Z](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Benton Shelter Project
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 9:03:45 PM

You don't often get email from mi.working@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear mayor and members of the Santa Clara City Council,

As a resident and mother of a young child living near the proposed Benton shelter site, I must express my strong opposition to this project due to several critical concerns.

Firstly, I question the wisdom of potentially allocating city funds to this project when our financial reports indicate a \$600 million existing debt. If the city can afford to support a new shelter, this could suggest that our financial health is sufficient to negate the need for the proposed \$400 million Bond Measure I, which I am also opposed to. Shouldn't we focus on reducing our debt rather than accruing more?

Secondly, the operational and maintenance costs of the Benton shelter worry me. Could these additional financial commitments further burden our city's budget? It is imperative we consider the long-term economic impacts on our community's financial stability.

Lastly, the shelter's low-barrier entry policy presents a potential safety risk to our neighborhood. This model could bring challenges that might compromise the security and well-being of local residents, including families like mine.

I urge the council to carefully consider the potential economic and safety implications of the Benton shelter. Our community's fiscal health and the safety of its residents should be our top priorities.

Thank you for addressing these critical issues. I trust that you will make a decision that ensures the long-term safety and financial stability of our community.

Sincerely,
Julie

From: Charles Elliotte
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Lisa Gillmor](#); [Kathy Watanabe](#); [Sudhanshu Jain](#); [Karen Hardy](#); [Kevin Park](#); [Raj Chahal](#); [Anthony Becker](#)
Cc: nohomekeysc@gmail.com; [Nong Vang](#)
Subject: Funding for Project Homekey at Benton - please don't sign-up Santa Clara for this poor investment
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 9:06:17 PM

You don't often get email from celliotte68@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Mayor and City Council of Santa Clara -

After narrowly voting to pass the Homekey project in May 2023, I applauded the City Council declining to sign on as a co-sponsor to Project Homekey's development at Benton and Lawrence later than summer.

I'd hoped that would be the end of it, but I see Project Homekey lives.

My concerns remain the same about the facility:

- Safety risks for the surrounding neighborhood and the children that live here and attend school nearby.
- Negative impact to nearby property values.
- A temporary / permanent shelter is already being developed within 0.5 miles in the former Bella Vista Inn at El Camino and Lawrence Expressway. We should get that shelter up and operational to see its impacts before adding another so close by.
- The cost!

The cost is exorbitant for what you're getting: \$34M for 30 units on land that Santa Clara already owns, and \$3.5M dollar annual operational budget. If you're spending over \$115K/yr for each unit running the place, it seems like you could just give the prospective residents the same money to get them off of the street temporarily and save the up front cost of building the housing. This would have the added benefit that the program could be shutdown if funding runs out.

If this is intended to be either a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility, then it should be presented as such.

Judging from the fact that Santa Clara has put the \$400M Measure I on the ballot this coming year, that indicates to me that the city does not have the funding for this program. If the City is to move ahead with Project Homekey on Benton, I certainly would not be inclined to approve Measure I since that funding may very well be used to pay for Project Homekey.

Please do what's right for the community and decline funding for this poorly conceived project.

Best.

From: [Santa Clara Housing Advocates](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Clerk](#); [Karen Hardy](#); [Anthony Becker](#); [Lisa Gillmor](#); [Raj Chahal](#); [Sudhanshu Jain](#); [Kevin Park](#); [Kathy Watanabe](#)
Subject: In Support of Agenda Item 1. 24-1079
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 9:23:57 PM
Attachments: [Benton Project Letter of Support 10.29.24.pdf](#)

As you know, tomorrow you will be voting to appropriate the already agreed upon money to go towards the potential Benton / Lawrence Interim Housing Project. You may remember that this was previously included in the FY 23/24 budget, which passed unanimously.

A letter is attached to this email expressing our support and gratitude for these actions, with a broad coalition of supporting organizations included.

In addition to reading through the comprehensive agenda packet created by your staff for this meeting, members in our group did additional research to clarify some questions that we have heard from the Council and other leaders. The primary concern you have shared is funding. We hope that the summary below, currently our best understanding of how matters stand, resolves that concern. We also know that you can't put a price on the welfare of children who will one day live in this building.

We also encourage you to review the resources we created in 2023, including [16 Reasons](#) why we support this project, backed by evidence and research.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the Council Meeting tomorrow evening.

P.S. We promise to do our part to not create another 7 hour meeting

As the City decided not to be a co-sponsor of the Homekey application, there are no agreements currently in place between the City and either the State or with the County/LifeMoves that commit the city to spend any funds on the Lawrence/Benton interim housing project.

The letter sent to the County from the City Manager on June 14th 2023 (in accordance with the City Council's votes the previous month) formally acknowledged a commitment to allocate up to \$7M, a combination of City Budget operating funds and PHLA funds, over a period of 7 years towards the operation of the facility if and when it is built. The letter, provided in the agenda packet, indicates that a **Revenue Sharing agreement**, requiring a **restrictive, recorded covenant**, would in due course have to be negotiated between the City, County and LifeMoves, and approved by the City before any forthcoming offer of funding from Homekey could be accepted. The revenue sharing agreement would spell out all the financial details of the commitment between the City and the County/LifeMoves, and the covenant would clearly define all the restrictions on use, operations and occupancy by families, etc that would be binding on the City and the County/LifeMoves.

On June 27th 2023, in the annual budgeting process, the Council voted to confirm that up to \$7M budget allocation.

Now, more than a year later, the project applicants, the County and LifeMoves, have been notified that Homekey is interested in funding the project, but because of the length of time that has passed, the budget allocation by the City - estimated slightly lower than before, at **\$6.6M** over 7 years - must be reconfirmed before a formal award from Homekey can be offered. If that reconfirmation happens, a HomeKey offer would be forthcoming, and the City staff would negotiate with the County and LifeMoves to create the Revenue Sharing Agreement and restrictive covenant, which would then be brought back to the Council for approval. After approval, the project applicants could proceed to accept the Homekey funding.

So, two separate legal agreements are involved. One would be between the State and the County/LifeMoves. The other would be between the City and the County/LifeMoves. The City is in a position to craft the latter agreement (which does not exist yet) in a way that would satisfy its concerns, fiscal and operational. But there is very little time - probably no more than 2 months - to get this done.

Elysa Gurman
Founder | Director & Lead Organizer
Santa Clara Housing Advocates

Santa Clara Housing Advocates

We support low-barrier interim housing in our neighborhood

To: Santa Clara City Council

Santa Clara Housing Advocates (SCHA) thanks you for reaffirming your support for the Lawrence / Benton Interim Housing Project, already demonstrated by your unanimous consent to last year's budget, which included this line item.

At the time of the original proposal, our Group came together through grassroots organizing along with the allyship of a coalition of community and political organizations in support of this project. Through our research we shared information with the Council and community about the importance of interim housing and benefits specific to this proposal. Your vote will allow for an efficient use of money to be put towards a proven solution to addressing the homelessness crisis. This project is one piece of a larger puzzle that will have positive effects on improved safety, access to healthcare including for mental illness, wrap around services for children and families, social & racial justice, and addressing systemic failures that lead to homelessness. This vote will show a renewed commitment to our community, which includes dignity for everyone who lives here

By shifting the focus from individuals to family and lowering the height of the building as requested by some community members, this proposal has become a project that everyone in our neighborhood can be happy with, and proud of. This is a unique opportunity to leverage funds from the County, Sobrato Philanthropies, and HomeKey - and these funding streams will never come together again. You can't put a price on the quality of life for children who will one day live in this building.

SCHA is excited to see the State of California, the City of Santa Clara, and the County of Santa Clara moving to take steps after our long wait. We look forward to the passage of the recommendation from City Staff as written on the agenda, in line with guidance from the City's Homeless Task Force and housing experts.

Santa Clara Housing Advocates

schousingadvocates@gmail.com

schousingadvocates.org

Santa Clara Housing Advocates is a grassroots group of local residents working towards sustainable and practical solutions to the housing crisis in our city in order to improve quality of life for all individuals and communities in Santa Clara.

SCHA has no funding and no affiliations. We are not connected in any way to the city, county, LifeMoves, or any other institution. We are not a 501(c)3 or 501(c)4, we are not a nonprofit, and we have no status as any type of legal entity. No one asked us to do this. We are just a group of people with shared values who believe in advocating for projects such as this one.

This project also received public support in 2023 from the following organizations:



Destination Home



Silicon Valley Community Foundation

sv@home SV@Home



Santa Clara County Democratic Party



Bill Wilson Center



Silicon Valley Democratic Club



Catalyze SV



Silicon Valley Working Blue Democratic Club



Greenbelt Alliance



Jewish Democratic Club of Silicon Valley



Livable Sunnyvale



Peninsula Democratic Coalition



South Bay YIMBY



Santa Clara Green Party



All Home



Helping Hands Silicon Valley



Housing Action Coalition



South County Compassion Center



United Way Bay Area



Santa Clara County Youth Action Board



Amigos de Guadalupe



No Time To Waste

From: [Sandy Jiao](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: Strong Opposition to Benton Shelter Plan
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 10:36:17 PM

You don't often get email from aandyjy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Officer,

I am reaching out to share my concerns about our city's finances and the proposed Benton low-barrier interim housing, which could further strain our budget.

1. **Deficit Concerns:** With a current city deficit of \$600 million, it's essential to address our financial priorities and long-term stability.
2. **Interim Housing Costs:** The operational and maintenance costs of this proposed shelter are likely to increase the deficit, adding additional pressure to our financial resources.
3. **Safety for Families:** As a low-barrier facility, the shelter does not fully address the need for a safe, secure environment for families in need.
4. **Bond Measure Opposition:** If the city can fund this shelter, it implies greater budget flexibility than previously indicated, raising questions about the necessity of the proposed \$400 million bond. For these reasons, I plan to vote "no" on Measure I.

I urge you and the council to reconsider this proposal and focus on a more balanced, financially sustainable approach.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,
Yang Jiao

From: [Lan Luo](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: Strongly Oppose to Benton Shelter Plan
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 10:22:37 PM

You don't often get email from lanluolinda@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Officer,

I am reaching out to convey my concerns regarding our city's financial situation and the proposed Benton low-entry barrier interim housing, which may place additional stress on our budget.

1. **Deficit Concerns:** Our city is currently grappling with a significant \$600 million deficit, raising crucial questions about our fiscal priorities and long-term financial stability.
2. **Interim Housing Costs:** The ongoing maintenance and operational expenses linked to the proposed shelter are likely to deepen this deficit, further straining our city's financial resources.
3. **Safety for Families:** The proposed shelter operates as a low-barrier facility, which does not adequately address the need for a safe, secure environment for families seeking shelter.
4. **Bond Measure Opposition:** If the city can accommodate an additional shelter, it suggests more budget flexibility than previously conveyed, raising doubts about the necessity of a new \$400 million bond. For these reasons, I intend to vote "no" on Measure I.

I strongly encourage you and the council to reevaluate this proposal and pursue a more balanced, fiscally responsible approach.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

Sincerely,

Lan Luo

From: [Zhihao Ji](#)
To: [Zhihao Ji](#)
Subject: Vote NO on Benton Shelter
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 11:51:40 PM

Dear Council Member,

Recently, I saw the news that Santa Clara city will vote for Benton Shelter to re-approve the budget. I am writing to express my concerns about our city's finances and the proposal for Benton low entry barrier interim housing, which may further strain our budget.

Since the City of Santa Clara already has a \$600 Million deficit and is planning to issue a new \$400 Million general obligation bond, this shelter proposal will create more difficulties for city financial situations.

Could you care more about current residents? We have the International Swim Center closed, and don't have enough funds to repair and maintain it. This swim center brings so much fun for local residents and I really hope the city can invest enough for local residents.

Also, there are SO many LOCAL residents who are against this homeless shelter, but city ignored residents' ask last year. So please don't let local residents down again this year. We are concerned about our safety since this homeless shelter is SO close to the neighborhood.

I urge you and the council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize a more balanced, financially responsible approach.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,
Zhihao

From: Vishal Tanna
To: Mayor and Council; Sudhanshu Jain; Anthony Becker; Karen Hardy; Kevin Park; Kathy Watanabe; Lisa Gillmor; Raj Chahal
Subject: RE: Reappropriating Santa Clara city funds for Benton Shelter project
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 8:07:39 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from vdtanna@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor and council members,

I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of our city's finances and the proposal for Benton low entry barrier interim housing, which may further strain our budget.

Apart from below mentioned concerns, we are deeply concerned about all the secrecy around this project, constant backdoor pursuance from county supervisors and their pressure on city as well as very unclear and vague communication from county after this project approved back in May'23. Every time neighbors send email either it results in no response or vague one liner while we hear that county supervisors are pushing this very hard in background even though project was not selected for Homekey 3.0 funding.

- 1. Deficit Concerns:** As you know, the city is currently facing a substantial deficit of \$600 million. This raises serious questions about our fiscal priorities and sustainability.
- 2. Interim Housing Costs:** The maintenance and operational costs associated with the proposed shelter will likely exacerbate this deficit, placing further strain on our city's financial resources.
- 3. Safety for Families:** The current shelter proposal remains a low-barrier facility, which does not address the need for a safe and secure environment for families seeking shelter or those residing in the neighborhood.
- 4. Bond Measure Opposition:** If the city has the resources to manage an additional shelter, it suggests there is more budget flexibility than previously indicated. This, in turn, calls into question the necessity of issuing a new \$400 million bond.

I urge you and the council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize a more balanced, financially responsible approach.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,
Vishal Tanna

408-991-5892

--

Typing one handed. Please excuse typos

From: [Cui Cao](#)
To: [Cui Cao](#)
Subject: No for Benton Shelter
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 9:10:11 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cui.cao@temple.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Member

I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of our city's finances and the proposal for Benton low entry barrier interim housing, which may further strain our budget.

Deficit Concerns: As you know, the city is currently facing a substantial deficit of \$600 million. This raises serious questions about our fiscal priorities and sustainability.

Interim Housing Costs: The maintenance and operational costs associated with the proposed shelter will likely exacerbate this deficit, placing further strain on our city's financial resources.

Safety for Families: The current shelter proposal remains a low-barrier facility, which does not address the need for a safe and secure environment for families seeking shelter.

Bond Measure Opposition: If the city has the resources to manage an additional shelter, it suggests there is more budget flexibility than previously indicated. This, in turn, calls into question the necessity of issuing a new \$400 million bond. For these reasons, I will be voting "no" on Measure I. I urge you and the council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize a more balanced, financially responsible approach. Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,
Cui Cao

From: [Lih-Chiao Hsu](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Lisa Gillmor](#); [Kathy Watanabe](#); [Sudhanshu Jain](#); [Karen Hardy](#); [Kevin Park](#); [Raj Chahal](#); [Anthony Becker](#)
Subject: Benton St. Shelter
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 9:21:38 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lihchiaohsu@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of our city's finances and the proposal for Benton low entry barrier interim housing, which may further strain our budget.

Deficit Concerns: As you know, the city is currently facing a substantial deficit of \$600 million. This raises serious questions about our fiscal priorities and sustainability.

Interim Housing Costs: The maintenance and operational costs associated with the proposed shelter will likely exacerbate this deficit, placing further strain on our city's financial resources.

Safety for Families: The current shelter proposal remains a low-barrier facility, which does not address the need for a safe and secure environment for families seeking shelter.

Bond Measure Opposition: If the city has the resources to manage an additional shelter, it suggests there is more budget flexibility than previously indicated. This, in turn, calls into question the necessity of issuing a new \$400 million bond. For these reasons, I will be voting "no" on Measure I.

I urge you and the council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize a more balanced, financially responsible approach.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,
Leo Hsu
3719 Benton St
Lihchiaohsu@gmail.com
650-868-1535

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Yee Wang](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Subject: Concerns about Benton low entry barrier interim housing
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 9:34:46 AM

You don't often get email from wyywy7436@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Officer,

I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of our city's finances and the proposal for Benton low entry barrier interim housing, which may further strain our budget.

Deficit Concerns: As you know, the city is currently facing a substantial deficit of \$600 million. This raises serious questions about our fiscal priorities and sustainability.

Interim Housing Costs: The maintenance and operational costs associated with the proposed shelter will likely exacerbate this deficit, placing further strain on our city's financial resources.

Safety for Families: The current shelter proposal remains a low-barrier facility, which does not address the need for a safe and secure environment for families seeking shelter.

Bond Measure Opposition: If the city has the resources to manage an additional shelter, it suggests there is more budget flexibility than previously indicated. This, in turn, calls into question the necessity of issuing a new \$400 million bond. For these reasons, I will be voting "no" on Measure I.

I urge you and the council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize a more balanced, financially responsible approach.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,
Yi Wang
3743 Hillside ct., Santa Clara
wyywy7436@gmail.com
408 - 636 - 3768

From: [Srikanth Gondi](#)
To: [Mayor and Council](#); [Lisa Gillmor](#); [Kathy Watanabe](#); [Sudhanshu Jain](#); [Karen Hardy](#); [Kevin Park](#); [Raj Chahal](#); [Anthony Becker](#)
Cc: [Neelima Gondi](#); [Vijay Gondi](#)
Subject: Benton's interim housing proposal
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 9:41:50 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sgondi@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

As a long-term resident of the Birdland neighborhood of Sunnyvale, I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of our city's finances and the proposal for Benton low entry barrier interim housing, which may further strain our budget.

1. **Deficit Concerns:** As you know, the city is currently facing a substantial deficit of \$600 million. This raises serious questions about our fiscal priorities and sustainability.
2. **Interim Housing Costs:** The maintenance and operational costs associated with the proposed shelter will likely exacerbate this deficit, placing further strain on our city's financial resources.
3. **Safety for Families:** The current shelter proposal remains a low-barrier facility, which does not address the need for a safe and secure environment for families seeking shelter or those residing in the neighborhood.
4. **Bond Measure Opposition:** If the city has the resources to manage an additional shelter, it suggests there is more budget flexibility than previously indicated. This, in turn, calls into question the necessity of issuing a new \$400 million bond.

I urge you and the council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize a more balanced, financially responsible approach.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

-Srikanth Gondi

Resident of Sunnyvale at 1502 Quail Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087
sgondi@gmail.com

From: JING LIU
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Benton Shelter
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 9:58:38 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from liujing9511@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear City Council Member,

I am writing to express my concerns about the current state of our city's finances and the proposal for Benton low entry barrier interim housing, which may further strain our budget.

Deficit Concerns: As you know, the city is currently facing a substantial deficit of \$600 million. This raises serious questions about our fiscal priorities and sustainability.

Interim Housing Costs: The maintenance and operational costs associated with the proposed shelter will likely exacerbate this deficit, placing further strain on our city's financial resources.

Safety for Families: The current shelter proposal remains a low-barrier facility, which does not address the need for a safe and secure environment for families seeking shelter.

Bond Measure Opposition: If the city has the resources to manage an additional shelter, it suggests there is more budget flexibility than previously indicated. This, in turn, calls into question the necessity of issuing a new \$400 million bond. For these reasons, I will be voting "no" on Measure I.

I urge you and the council to reconsider this proposal and prioritize a more balanced, financially responsible approach.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,
Jing Liu
1505 Lochinvar Ave, Sunnyvale, CA
liujing9511@gmail.com
4084994129
Sent from my iPhone

From: J Pan
To: [Mayor and Council](#)
Cc: [Lisa Gillmor](#); [Kathy Watanabe](#); [Sudhanshu Jain](#); [Karen Hardy](#); [Kevin Park](#); [Raj Chahal](#); [Anthony Becker](#)
Subject: Opposed to Homekey Interim Housing Development Plan
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:10:21 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jiayipan@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Mayor and City Council Members,

I am a mother with two elementary school kids living in City of Santa Clara. My whole family opposes the proposed Homekey Interim Housing Development Plan (Benton Shelter Plan) because LifeMoves, who supervises the project, has a very bad record of running other homeless shelters in nearby cities.

I worked in civil engineering industry for more than a decade and in several countries. With the record and performance of LifeMoves, I doubt they could earn any projects without bribery in any countries.

LifeMoves supervised similar shelter projects in the nearby cities, and they created very poor records in achieving projects' goals. For example, the construction cost estimate of LifeMoves' one shelter was doubled within a year after the approval date, however, the average inflation rate was 5%-7% per federal and state government's reports. Does this unreasonable construction cost increase indicate LifeMoves is losing control of their projects? The intention of shelters is to provide a safe place for many homeless people to live. However, LifeMoves kept harassers in the shelter despite multiple harassment reports per local news. How can they achieve the purpose of the project by keeping the harassers in the shelters and leaving well-behaved homeless people out of the shelters due to the threats by harassers.

Per local news, the success rate of LifeMoves' shelters is only 26%, and they lack qualified staff and nurses to operate their existing shelters even though the shelters have not reached their full capacities up to now. How can we trust LifeMoves is able to provide qualified service for the existing shelters and has resources to operate new shelters? Without resolving the problems with the existing shelters but rushing to construct another new bigger shelter will only make the problems worse. We are afraid the proposed Benton Shelter Plan will be another non-successful project by LifeMoves.

The City of Santa Clara is raising money to operate the city's facilities not to be wasted by LifeMoves. The City should has accountability for spending tax money. If the City moved funding of projects that service residents' needs to the Benton Shelter project, taxpayers would be very disappointed and would vote No to Measure I to stop the waste of tax money!

We voted for our city council members in the trust that we would work together to make the City of Santa Clara a better place to live. We only vote for whoever can reflect our interests.

Please vote NOT to fund the Homekey Interim Housing Development Plan!

Best Regards,
Jiayi Pan Family
Registered Voter of Santa Clara