
From: Gloria Bruce <gloria@ebho.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 9:50 AM

To: John J. Bauters; Ally Medina; Dianne Martinez; Christian Robin Patz; Scott Donahue

Subject: Support for Emeryville Housing Bond

Dear Mayor Bauters and Councilmembers:

Thank you so much for your vote on February 20th to place an affordable housing bond on the ballot in Emeryville; this is an important show of leadership. As the ordinance goes to its second reading tonight, we want to continue to express our strong support and have attached an updated letter. We hope you will again make the right choice and give Emeryville residents the chance to say "yes" to funding affordable housing. Please do not hesitate to reach out to EBHO if you have questions.

With appreciation,
Gloria

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GLORIA BRUCE

Executive Director

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East Bay Housing Organizations

March 6, 2018

Emeryville City Council
1333 Park Avenue
Emeryville, CA 94608

Dear Mayor Bauters and Councilmembers Medina, Donahue, Martinez and Patz:

First, EBHO would like to thank you for unanimously voting to place an affordable housing bond on the ballot at your February 20th meeting. This is an important first step towards enhancing the resources available for affordable housing. We would like to reiterate our support as this ordinance goes to its second reading.

East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO), representing more than 400 member organizations and individuals throughout Alameda and Contra Costa County, has seen that local action to support revenue for affordable housing can make a huge difference. We strongly support this proposal to place a \$50 million housing bond on the June 2018 ballot. As the Bay Area housing crisis deepens, and with the loss of vital local funds for affordable housing because of redevelopment dissolution and federal budget cuts, the need for new local resources is more critical than ever. While many City Councils are discussing how to approach housing and homelessness, Emeryville has the opportunity to set a standard for other local jurisdictions by taking *action*.

If Emeryville continues to show leadership with this measure, it can further leverage Measure A1 funds as well as be better positioned to access state Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities funds (cap-and-trade) as well as competitive Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Most importantly, this bond could help to create hundreds of homes needed by Emeryville's lower-income residents. As we know from the response to RCD's Ambassador and the growth of encampments, the need for affordable housing in Emeryville remains critical. Building new affordable homes is one of the best ways to address homelessness and displacement, and we have seen voters respond positively to the chance to make a difference in this area - from the 74% approval rate of Alameda County's Measure A1, to 82% for Measure KK in Oakland in 2016. EBHO was extensively involved in the program design and campaigns for both of these bonds and knows how much of a difference they will make.

We urge you to support this proposal on its second reading tonight. We thank you for your consideration of these comments and hope you will consider us a resource on this issue.

Best,

Gloria Bruce, Executive Director