



May 21, 2021

Mayor Bob Woerner  
Livermore City Council  
1052 South Livermore Avenue  
Livermore, CA 94550

Re: Downtown Plan Affordable Housing Component - Eden Housing, Inc.  
05/24/21 Agenda Item #5.2

Dear Mayor Woerner & Council Members:

On behalf of the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce (LVCC), I am writing to express strong support for Eden Housing's Downtown Livermore Affordable Housing project.

LVCC is a membership association comprised of private businesses, non-profit organizations, public agencies, and individuals. Our 400+ members and 20,000 jobs are a diverse and wide-ranging representation of the Livermore Valley economy. LVCC policy priorities includes support for housing sufficient to shelter workers and residents at all income levels. As we are all keenly aware, California is experiencing a housing crisis unlike any previously known. Livermore is not exempt from the impacts of this situation as local businesses of every size and in all sectors - private; public; non-profit - must contend with employee retention and recruitment challenges that include a dearth of housing at all levels of incomes except for those with salaries in the six-figure range.

LVCC recognizes City leaders for the efforts put forth in its planning documents - General Plan and Specific Plans - setting the vision to provide housing necessary for the current and future workforce. Since its earliest days of ranching, farming and mining; the development of two national laboratories to today's innovation economy, the City of Livermore has planned, laying out the blueprints to implement housing necessary to support a vibrant local economy. The City was a leader in designating Affordable Housing Trust funds to purchase the 8-acre Downtown Catalyst parcel, making a commitment to build affordable housing, centrally located and affordable to workers in the private and public service sectors. Many of these jobs were designated essential services over the past 15 months during the COVID-19 pandemic. LVCC supports the City in meeting its commitment and obligation to the workforce with this project today.

The merits of the Downtown Plan Affordable Housing Component and the Eden Housing project are many. The work and due diligence of the Livermore Planning Commission and Livermore staff were comprehensive and thoughtful. The work of Eden Housing, a highly experienced and respected developer of affordable housing units, was thorough and dynamic as it worked with the City to successfully assemble funding necessary to deliver a high-quality residence for 130 workers and families.

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LVCC is deeply familiar with the efforts and expense to which the City of Livermore undergoes in its planning for the community. We are saddened and disappointed by the degree to which some have gone to besmirch the integrity, legitimacy, indeed the “blood, sweat and tears” of those that have participated in public processes to develop the Downtown Plans and respective projects. It is unfortunate that choices have been made to mislead and misinform many in the community, with an intent to undermine the Downtown Plan, including this project, causing the City to expend precious dollars and resources chasing down claims and declarations not grounded in reality. This has been harmful to the progress and inclusiveness of what was, is and will remain a hardworking, thoughtful and caring community. While LVCC is open to including all perspectives in important issues affecting the economy, we remain focused on economic progress, prosperity and inclusiveness in support of a strong community.

The past 15-month experience was a moment to recognize opportunities, to set priorities and take action to survive, sustain and ultimately thrive. Plans have been made and executed, funding is in place. Businesses and workers await your approval of this project. This is your moment.

Respectfully,

*Dawn P. Argula*

Dawn P. Argula  
CEO & President