



Date: March 20, 2018

To: Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

Re: Year-Round Provision of Emergency Shelter in Sunnyvale

Dear President Simitian et al.,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the memo authored by Board President Simitian and Supervisor Cortese which recommends County Administration extend Sunnyvale Shelter operations beyond April and through the Fall. I commend the aforementioned Supervisors' efforts to provide strong protections for our most vulnerable residents and respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to consider the importance of this proposal.

In Silicon Valley, too many experience acute levels of poverty. Financially-stressed families live in overcrowded apartments struggling to pay rent and at risk of displacement. Too often after being displaced, these families end up spending nights in cars or worse yet, in the streets. Once displacement happens, the high cost of living and many other pressures present challenges for families trying to recapture financial stability.

When families are displaced, it is on us, the stewards of our community's resources, to provide the assistance needed for short-term *and* long-term recovery. The days immediately following displacement can be crucial in determining the resources it will take for a family to bounce back. The safety and sense of community an overnight shelter like Sunnyvale's can provide are invaluable components of the motivation needed to dig out of homelessness. I am heartened to read about the environment Site Manager Kelcy Fleming has created in the Sunnyvale Shelter and look forward to seeing how other shelters in the Valley can replicate this model.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you have any questions or concerns; I can be reached at (408) 535-4909 or by e-mail at [Donald.Rocha@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Donald.Rocha@sanjoseca.gov). Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Donald Rocha

San José City Councilmember, District 9

Considered: 03/20/2018