



August 26, 2025

Honorable City Council and Staff of Menlo Park,

Menlo Together envisions a city that is integrated and diverse, multi-generational, and environmentally sustainable. We imagine an accessible and inviting downtown with housing at all affordability levels, less solo driving, and more pedestrian and bike-friendly spaces that produce zero net greenhouse gasses.

Since our founding, new affordable homes on our city-owned land near shops, parks, and public transit has been central to our vision and values.

We write in strong support of issuing an RFP that:

- encourages developers to use state density bonus law and the city's affordable housing overlay to achieve deeper levels of affordability
- takes a realistic and collaborative approach to financing replacement public parking
- includes questions about property management that impact resident experience

We endorse and support the [August 24 policy letter submitted by our partners at HLC](#) and wish to remind you of the [May 27 letter from Menlo Together regarding resident experience](#).

In our outreach to community members about this proposal, we have found that the vast majority decisively support the plan. Their life experience of struggling to afford Menlo Park, losing friends or co-workers to displacement, or being forced to live far from the community in which they work is all the explanation they need.

As of now, 827 members of our community have demonstrated support for new affordable homes downtown. Names without an asterix have signed the letter below. Names with an asterix have taken one or more of these actions but not yet signed the letter below:

- signed an earlier [petition to upzone downtown](#),
- signed a separate petition by our partners at Peninsula For Everyone petition in support of the new homes
- wrote a personal email to city council, and/or spoke in support of the proposal at a public meeting.

Regards,

The Menlo Together team