

Menlo Park City Council and Staff,

282 people have signed a petition on Action Network telling you to Add your name: We support new affordable homes on downtown parking lots!.

Here is the petition they signed:

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create hundreds of new, affordable homes in downtown Menlo Park!

To support the city's plans to build new affordable homes on three city-owned downtown parking lots, and we want Menlo Park's city council to:

1. Maximize the number of affordable homes on parking lots at the deepest level of affordability possible,
2. Encourage developers to take full advantage of state laws that streamline development of new affordable homes and allow flexible design, including increased height,
3. Identify strategies to support extremely low-income homes, including city funding to manage and operate deeply affordable homes,
4. Prioritize the approval and development of these homes,
5. Support a mix of community benefits that advance city priorities without imposing costly requirements that risk making the project infeasible.

Why we care:

We all benefit when local employees, young families, & teachers can afford to live here. Affordable homes help our community stay housed, reducing local homelessness and allowing more of our children, working families, and seniors to stay here. Local businesses thrive when they have customers and employees living nearby. Older residents living in large homes can downsize, opening new housing options for larger families and allowing the elderly to live in a walkable, disability-accessible location.

Menlo Park can be part of a bigger solution to ensure everyone has a safe, stable place to call home by promoting new affordable homes on our downtown parking lots.

Sincerely,

You can view each petition signer and the comments they left you below.

Thank you,

Menlo Together

1. Karen Grove (*ZIP code: 94025-6210*)

2. Reeve Garrett (*ZIP code: 94025*)

3. FrancescaENZler (*ZIP code: 94025*)

4. Anne Oursler (*ZIP code:*)

5. Peter Nance (*ZIP code:*)

6. John Woodell (*ZIP code:*)

Let's get some housing downtown

7. Christopher Porter-Carlton (*ZIP code:*)

8. Eduardo Hernandez (*ZIP code:*)

9. Glafira Garcia (*ZIP code:*)

10. Alberto Tomato Garcia (*ZIP code:*)

11. Rob Jordan (*ZIP code: 94025*)

Rob Jordan

12. Sarah Zollweg (*ZIP code: 94025*)

13. Roberta Ahlquist (*ZIP code: 94301*)

14. Carol Orton Orton (*ZIP code: 94025*)

15. Rachel Bickerstaff (*ZIP code:*)

16. Cheryl Schaff (*ZIP code: 94025*)

17. Robert Whitehair (*ZIP code: 94402-3018*)

18. Molly Corman (*ZIP code:*)

19. Bob Miyahara (*ZIP code: 94025*)

I fully support the building of affordable homes in downtown Menlo Park.

20. Sandy Sloan (*ZIP code: 94025*)

Downtown is the perfect place for housing

21. Kristen Leep (ZIP code: 94025)

22. Leigh Flesher (ZIP code:)

I support development of housing in downtown Menlo Park, especially affordable housing.

23. Luther Orton (ZIP code:)

24. Bessie Rivera (ZIP code: 94063)

25. Esther Adelsheim (ZIP code: 94025)

The number of parking spots can be maintained - the difference is growing up (and down) so that we can start to address the housing shortage in our community. The decision is between preserving parking lots vs creating home for people while reconfiguring the locations where people park in downtown. Seems like an easy choice if one considers what will most benefit the wellbeing of a majority of people.

26. Kira Arnold (ZIP code:)

27. Scott Rosenblum (ZIP code:)

28. Joanna Wijntjes (ZIP code:)

I support turning parking lots into housing. We have too many vacancies in storefronts downtown. We need more young families moving in. We have so many parking lots, and they are an eyesore. Let's add people and homes instead. It will make our downtown happy and vibrant and alive.

29. An anonymous signer (ZIP code:)

30. Andrew Callahan (ZIP code:)

31. Gina Lauricella (ZIP code:)

Menlo Park is against affordable housing? Sounds about (w)right. All the affluent rich white folks certainly would be against diversity and low income housing. Those boomers can kick rocks.

32. Ben Levy (ZIP code:)

33. Alex Gonzalez (ZIP code:)

34. Kerri Smyth (ZIP code:)

The housing affordability situation in Menlo Park is unsustainable! More housing is urgently needed. Downtown is the perfect location near transit, shopping, and jobs.

35. Mark Mendoza (ZIP code:)

In support of downtown Menlo Park development for affordable housing and new retail.

36. Elinor Westfold (ZIP code:)

I grew up in Menlo Park, but I don't live there now. Why? I'm a teacher and can't afford it. A healthy community should support residents of diverse income levels. Smart, affordable development in downtown, near Caltrain, will do just that. I'm disappointed (but not surprised) to see opposition to this sensible plan. I hope the City Council will remain sensible and push forward with what is right for this community.

37. Lisa Carnochan (*ZIP code:*)

Why should a few business owners be prioritized over workers and teachers? And why can't people just walk from parking on El Camino and why won't the people in the new housing ALSO use the downtown?

38. Evan Goldin (*ZIP code:*)

What Menlo needs most isn't parking, it's people. Do the right thing.

39. Stephanie Lau (*ZIP code:*)

I live close to downtown Menlo Park, and honestly the downtown looks terrible with all the empty storefronts. We need to revitalize the downtown area by bringing in more people!

40. Laurence (*ZIP code:*)

The Bay Area must be affordable. Just as I supported lower- and middle-income housing near my neighborhood in the San Jose suburbs, so do I believe the Menlo Park city council should move forward with its proposal to convert parking lots into new housing units.

41. Caleigh Macdonald (*ZIP code:*)

Joni Mitchell's song "Big Yellow Taxi" famously lamented how "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot." But here in Menlo Park, efforts are underway to "Save" (poorly maintained) surface parking lots in order to prevent needed infill housing in the downtown area that would benefit businesses with added foot traffic and commerce. The state of California is in a housing crisis from misguided efforts like this. The planning processes should not be stymied by the hecklers' veto.

42. Marie Hughes (*ZIP code:*)

The proposed plan has been implemented elsewhere and works quite well. It brings a built-in customer base to downtown which benefits everyone. Don't let a bunch of NIMBYs derail it.

43. Natalya Etina (*ZIP code:*)

44. Rebecca Patey (*ZIP code:*)

45. JC Raveneau (*ZIP code:*)

46. Caleb Wigham (*ZIP code:*)

I fully support the building of housing in downtown Menlo Park. Downtown is severely underutilized and adding housing stock on worthless parking lots would increase the footfall traffic and value of downtown.

47. Mengqi Sun (*ZIP code:*)

48. Adrian Jank (*ZIP code:*)

49. Patricia Good (*ZIP code:*)

50. Jessica Bayliss (*ZIP code:*)

51. Sarah Eisner Eisner (*ZIP code: 94027*)

52. Jessica Schroeder (*ZIP code: 94025*)

53. Renee Kee (*ZIP code:*)

Providing housing downtown is good for Menlo Park!

54. Alison Gibson (*ZIP code: 94025*)

55. Paul Cliburn (*ZIP code: 94025*)

56. Jennifer Kalt (*ZIP code: 95519*)

57. Yvonne Murray (*ZIP code: 94025*)

58. Alexander Key (*ZIP code: 94025*)

59. Rebecca Barfknecht (*ZIP code: 94025*)

I support affordable housing in Menlo Park! We must NOT do this at the sacrifice of parking for shoppers. When we can do BOTH count me IN!

60. Suzanne Moore (*ZIP code:*)

61. Shannon Dennis (*ZIP code:*)

62. Amy Boggs (*ZIP code: 94025*)

63. Andrew Jobst (*ZIP code:*)

We need to start saying "yes" to housing, of ALL kinds. Walkable distances to services is great, and the people living in this housing will add customers to downtown, supporting the businesses there.

64. Kristina Sinclair (*ZIP code: 94608*)

Please support housing in downtown Menlo Park! The existing parking lots are not an efficient use of space. Housing will revitalize the downtown area, support community residents, and decrease car traffic and climate emissions by allowing more people to live in Menlo Park instead of commuting.

65. Hannah Sowerwine (*ZIP code:*)

66. Lisa Saunders (ZIP code: 94025)

Preserving acres of asphalt is not a way to “save” Menlo Park

67. CAROI VAN SCHAACK (ZIP code: 94025-6364)

68. Kevyn Andrews (ZIP code: 94025)

69. Kevin Rennie (ZIP code: 94025)

70. Thomas Leep (ZIP code: 94025)

Let's find a way to provide affordable housing and provide plenty of parking.

71. Isabel Agustin (ZIP code:)

72. Morgan Ames (ZIP code: 94025)

My kids' lovely teachers at Laurel Elementary School drive *every day* from Santa Cruz, South San Jose, and for some even farther afield to teach at Laurel because they can't afford to live closer. We need to change that! MPCSD pays relatively well and has good benefits, but housing prices are just absurd because we have WAY more people who work nearby than can live nearby. Then those workers have to drive long distances and traffic is worse.

More housing is a win for everyone - likely even for single-family-home owners, because the demand for those kinds of units will still be there among those who can afford it.

The primary short-term downside is temporary inconvenience during construction and infrastructure upgrades, but too many seem to only care about that short-term inconvenience and not the many long-term benefits for the neighborhood.

73. Elidia Tafoya (ZIP code: 94025)

74. Josh Levenberg (ZIP code:)

It's a shame to see downtown landlords promote stagnation by coming out against housing, something our city needs so desperately. It's so short-sighted of them to prefer often half-empty parking lots to so many potential customers living within walking distance - not to mention that WE CAN ALSO BUILD PARKING STRUCTURES! When I compare downtown Menlo Park to downtown Palo Alto, which does not have nearly as many parking lots but does have several parking structures, it's like night and day - downtown Palo Alto is bustling, while downtown Menlo Park is so stagnant.

I, for one, don't particularly want to keep supporting businesses like Draeger's or Menlo Park Ace Hardware, which have been willing to put their names front and center in support of stagnation and favoring asphalt over people.

Finally, regarding the proposal to *instead* build on civic center parking lots - I say WE NEED TO DO BOTH!

75. Renata Molina (ZIP code:)

Menlo Park teachers, service workers, and more deserve to live close to their workplaces rather than

commute hours each way.

Cities all over California have blocked housing development for decades, leading to historically high housing prices all over the state. Now, for the first time in decades, the state is enforcing city housing elements, meaning that we have a HUGE deficit to make up. ALL neighborhoods need to do their part, but especially neighborhoods close to transit. Building on downtown parking lots is a historic opportunity to meaningfully address this deficit in a pro-transit, pro-density, climate-change-conscious way.

From conversations with Drew Combs and discussions on NextDoor, I know this is a hot topic, but the arguments against housing all seem to be strawmen. Here are the main arguments I've seen repeated:

1- "taking away parking" - it would be simple to include a parking garage! People on NextDoor are arguing that they are *certain* that won't happen, but there is NO design yet. Moreover, I often see ample parking downtown, and we just added a lot just across El Camino as well. I support PEOPLE over CARS.

2- "this would kill downtown" - Menlo Park's downtown is already struggling with high vacancies. Having more people live downtown would almost certainly make downtown businesses MORE vibrant.

3- "people who live in affordable units won't be able to afford Draeger's" - given the proximity of Trader Joe's, Safeway, and a number of other options, this is just ridiculous.

4- "traffic will be worse" - traffic through and around Menlo Park is bad in a large part because so many people can't afford to live close to where they work. These units, with their proximity to CalTrain and major bus lines, would enable a public transit lifestyle far more easily than even more building in flood-prone Belle Haven or elsewhere in the city. I for one would LOVE to couple this construction with the addition of more dedicated and separated bicycle lanes to make biking a safer and more viable alternative to driving for more of the population. In the long-term, I'd also love to add light rail along all major thoroughfares throughout the city as well!

5- "we don't have the infrastructure" - I've never seen any evidence for this claim. Moreover, if infrastructure DOES need to be upgraded for these developments, then that will be part of the project - which could potentially benefit the whole city by replacing and improving aging systems.

6- "we have to add housing because of Meta, so let's build more down there." This housing must be added not because of Meta, but because Menlo Park residents have for DECADES blocked housing that the city was legally mandated to add according to its housing element, and California has not been enforcing its housing element - UNTIL NOW. Moreover, Belle Haven has already had a HUGE amount of housing development, and a huge amount is still in the pipeline -- and I worry about much of this housing with rising seas because of climate change. It is time that ALL neighborhoods share the task of adding more units, including neighborhoods that have historically used their political power and wealth to block development, which includes all neighborhoods west of El Camino.

(And speaking of power and wealth, wealthy residents have already hired LAWYERS to oppose this, and they've poured money into large-scale marketing campaigns! I've gotten professionally-printed full-color cardstock flyers on my car downtown and at Menlo Medical Clinic opposed to this development.)

7- "we don't have the school capacity" - we currently have unfilled capacities in Menlo Park schools,

as our enrollments are down from where they were a decade ago. And if we need more capacity, we can build more onto existing schools, and I also see multiple opportunities for new schools on chunks of land like USGS/SRI, the former Sunset campus, schools in the Willows currently owned by Belle Haven district, and more. In short, this is something that we can address!

8- perhaps MOST ridiculously, I've seen posts on NextDoor decrying the "red" buildings that people appear to be certain are going to be built, based off of renderings put on the city website that highlighted possible building profiles in red so we could easily see them. I see this as a clear sign that the anti-housing contingent is grasping at strawmen in their opposition.

76. Shira Jordan (*ZIP code:*)

77. Nicole Kemeny (*ZIP code: 94025*)

I believe building housing downtown will create a more vibrant Menlo Park. I prefer people over cars.

78. Toni Ouradnik (*ZIP code: 94303*)

As a teacher who has lived and worked in the area for over 18 years, I have seen how the cost of housing has continued to grow at a much faster rate than our wages and how many many people working in the area have been displaced for this reason. Menlo Park's median income is higher than many of us will ever achieve and Menlo Park is at risk of becoming an enclave for the rich or fortunate who purchased homes over 20 years ago. We need to provide housing for all members of the community, not only luxury apartments that are far out of reach.

79. Kevin Kraft (*ZIP code: 94025*)

80. Paul Kreiner (*ZIP code: 94025*)

I support more housing - affordable and market rate - whatever we can do to increase the availability of housing where demand is high and transit is nearby like downtown Menlo!

81. Lisa Guevara (*ZIP code: 94025*)

82. Benjamin Owad (*ZIP code:*)

83. James Ausman (*ZIP code:*)

We need more housing so that young families do not have to leave the area where they grew up.

84. Ann Sison (*ZIP code: 94025*)

85. Chris Davis (*ZIP code:*)

As someone who shops weekly in downtown Menlo Park, I want to see its retail businesses thrive and the empty storefronts be filled with happy customers! It's baffling to me that so many shops in Menlo Park are against building affordable housing, when time and time again, other cities have shown that downtown revitalization occurs when higher density housing is built.

86. Filiberto Zaragoza (*ZIP code:*)

87. Sara Leslie (*ZIP code:*)

88. Joanne Rokosky (*ZIP code:*)

89. Paul Krupka (*ZIP code:*)

Who better to support local businesses than new downtown residents? I'm all for this. THANK YOU.

90. Sally Roth (*ZIP code:*)

91. margaret mcgraw-scherer (*ZIP code:*)

92. JL Angell (*ZIP code:*)

93. Steve Feyer (*ZIP code:*)

94. Cade Cannedy (*ZIP code:*)

95. Cynthia Newman (*ZIP code:*)

96. Martin Horwitz (*ZIP code:*)

97. Pamela Dorr (*ZIP code:*)

98. Shirley Weathers (*ZIP code:*)

This truly is an amazing project. I'd love for it to serve as an example to follow for the San Mateo City Council. Please, take this opportunity!

99. Leslie Wambach (*ZIP code:*)

Housing on the downtown parking lots is a fantastic idea and is FAR BETTER than building housing on our limited green spaces!! These already paved over areas could be much better configured to provide both housing AND vertical parking garages. It would help revitalize our struggling downtown businesses that need more foot traffic! The downtown parking structures in Palo Alto are a great example of just how well this can work. Please build this forward looking and visionary project.

Thanks,
Leslie

100. Karin Buckner (*ZIP code:*)

My husband grew up in Menlo Park when it was working class neighborhood for Stanford. His family sold their home and relocated to Morgan Hill to afford sending him and his sister to college. It is unsustainable for the blue collar workforce, trying to earn an honest living, to commute from hours away to service the residents of Stanford and other tech companies. Please support affordable housing in Menlo Park!

101. Javonne Atchan (*ZIP code:*)

102. DEBORAH PENROSE (*ZIP code:*)

103. Anthony Lazarusq (*ZIP code:*)

To whom it may concern in Menlo Park,

Hello! I am your neighbor in Redwood City. We've been able to benefit from a good amount of housing right downtown, right by transit, because we planned for it.

It would be profoundly unfair for folks in Menlo Park to say "We don't need any new housing, there's all this development in Redwood City." That's not the way cities should work.

Every place in California needs to do its part to rectify the racist and segregationist history in our zoning and housing rules, and Menlo Park must build as well.

The future may seem uncertain, but you will not regret making a decision that plans for the future of your downtown and your local businesses. In fact, if you build the housing people will still be able to drive and park downtown. They still do in Redwood City!

Enough with the fearmongering and xenophobia and disdain for working people. Please do the right thing. Thank you!

Anthony Lazarus
Redwood City

104. Charles Chapa (*ZIP code:*)

105. Martha Beetley (*ZIP code:*)

We need more affordable housing! Please help to keep our community workers in Menlo Park.

106. Ellani Nguyen (*ZIP code:*)

107. Richard Gallo (*ZIP code:*)

108. Dawn Cardillo (*ZIP code:*)

Affordable housing is critical in San Mateo county.

109. Karyn Gaxiola (*ZIP code:*)

Please help us who need affordable housing. Thank you

110. Joan Odonnell (*ZIP code:*)

We need your support to give people affordable housing.

111. Elizabeth Barnard (*ZIP code:*)

112. Caroline Boll (*ZIP code:*)

113. AJ cho (*ZIP code:*)

114. Laurent Pacalin (*ZIP code:*)

115. Marian Duncan (*ZIP code:*)

I am interested in getting more involved with your efforts to promote more housing in Menlo Park

116. sarah pokorny (*ZIP code:*)

117. Caryl Hughan (*ZIP code:*)

I urge you to make this housing opportunity available.

118. Tim Goode (*ZIP code:*)

Cities are for people, not parking lots

119. Nancy Tierney (*ZIP code:*)

120. David Crabbe (*ZIP code:*)

Consider Wheeler Plaza in San Carlos as a prototype that can be used in Menlo Park. It created 100 units of housing and increased the parking on a city parking lot by 50%.

121. John St. John (*ZIP code:*)

I want my kids to be able to afford to live near me when they grow up. More housing is part of that. Thanks!

122. Anthony Palmere (*ZIP code:*)

123. Jim lawrence (*ZIP code:*)

Menlo Park, as well as all other cities, must fully participate in providing affordable housing in San Mateo County!

124. Remi Tan (*ZIP code:*)

I am a local architect and affordable housing advocate. This proposal will bring much needed sustainable infill affordable housing near Caltrain, shops and Silicon Valley jobs

125. Katherine Lowe (*ZIP code:*)

126. Sheraden Nicholau (*ZIP code:*)

I am the Regional Manager for the CA State Council on Developmental Disabilities; San Mateo County is one of the counties our office supports. We support the plans of Menlo Park to build affordable homes for the community leveraging these city properties.

127. Jane Lowry (*ZIP code:*)

128. Angela Liu (*ZIP code:*)

129. Brian Coan (*ZIP code:*)

130. Bill Buckner (*ZIP code:*)

We lived 13 years in West Menlo Park on Stanford Avenue near Live Oak Elementary School and we definitely support giving a low cost opportunity for school employees/teachers, city employees and others to live in the neighborhood where they work and can participate in non-work related activities in the town. We loved living there but think increasing the diversity of the community would add vibrancy to the collective experience of the community.

131. Cathy Baird (*ZIP code:*)

132. Kristen Leep (*ZIP code:*)

133. Caephren McKenna (*ZIP code:*)

134. Lisa Buckner (*ZIP code:*)

135. Pat Hunter (*ZIP code:*)

136. Joy Addison (*ZIP code:*)

137. Cindy Merritt (*ZIP code:*)

138. Barbara Gupta (*ZIP code:*)

People who live and work in Menlo Park should be able to live here, now and in the future.

139. Lee Mei (*ZIP code:*)

140. shawna rad (*ZIP code:*)

141. Meghan Riddlespurger (*ZIP code:*)

There is no time like the present to be bold and advocate for *all* of your constituents, especially for those who can't come to the podium every week or aren't yet able to afford to live in your district. Would you rather have a legacy defined by expanding access and opportunity, or by closing the door on hundreds of individuals and families who needed homes in the area?

142. Nina Wouk (*ZIP code:* 94025)

143. Shirley Liu (*ZIP code:*)

We need more affordable housing.

144. Maureen Hatfield (*ZIP code:*)

I am paying attention even though I am currently an East Contra Costa resident. My only family is in Cupertino, and to have the ability to possibly relocate to the Peninsula means a great deal to me, and I am sure others. I am alone, and as I age would like to be closer to family to offer my support in their

growing family, and be supported and not on my own as I age. Affordable housing, particularly in the South Bay, is vital to remaining a desirable location. My daughter, her husband, and infant son are renting, both have excellent careers (educator and electrician contracted with a high tech, growing company), yet their rent is beyond belief. Should they choose to grow their family, child care costs are unbelievable. Living closer would afford me a chance to defray that cost for them, and allow me to bond with my grandson and any future grandchildren they may have. I am 68, and the drive from Brentwood to Cupertino is very stressful, and limiting. I will not leave Brentwood until after commute time (9:00-9:30 am) and return home before afternoon commute time (by 1:00 at the latest). In the best of times, I look at commute to be a minimum of 1 1/2 hours, stressful the entire way. Weekends are even worse. More affordable housing would assist everyone, new families starting out, elders wanting to assist our children in building community without worry of exorbitant rent.

145. Christina Vitale (ZIP code: 94025)

I feel strongly this is the best plan for our city.

146. Marya Ouro-Gbeleou (ZIP code:)

147. Nancy Schneider (ZIP code:)

148. Elizabeth McCarthy (ZIP code:)

149. Michael Braude (ZIP code:)

150. Lisa McPherson (ZIP code:)

I support thoughtfully designed and affordable housing in Menlo Park.

151. Salvador Delgadillo (ZIP code:)

152. Paul Flynn (ZIP code:)

153. Clara Jaeckel (ZIP code:)

154. An anonymous signer (ZIP code:)

155. Annie Zaenen (ZIP code:)

156. Judith Holiber (ZIP code:)

157. Penny Williams (ZIP code:)

158. Najeeb Khan (ZIP code:)

This is a desperately needed service in San Mateo County.

159. John Farrow (ZIP code:)

Affordable infill housing is not only equitable, but it will also mitigate climate impacts by reducing

vehicle miles travelled by low-wage workers

160. Raymond Meyer (*ZIP code:*)

161. Jess Hudson Hudson (*ZIP code:*)

162. Kelly Hollywood (*ZIP code:*)

163. Susan White (*ZIP code:*)

164. Poorna Kumar (*ZIP code:*)

I support more housing in Menlo Park, and can't think of a better place for that housing than downtown.

Our downtown is in need of revitalization - closed storefronts, sleepy rug stores that I've never seen a real customer in (and I've lived here for five years and walk around plenty), and an overall sense of stasis.

For businesses that are worried about a lack of easy parking, look no further than Palo Alto and Redwood City to see that dense downtowns can and do thrive! For people concerned about the look and feel of downtown changing with new housing - the biggest eyesores are the flat, gray, sprawling parking lots everywhere. Multi-level parking is neater. Also, let's encourage biking and walking - it's fun and good for you!

I've seen the alternative suggestion of building housing in the parking lots by Burgess Park and think it's a bad idea - the park is one of the few places in the city that can be enjoyed by a diverse group of people young and old for free, and construction projects if any should be aimed at improving its utility as a community and open space. It seems to me that the people suggesting we build housing there don't use or value the community space.

Finally, I find it astonishing that a small group of people who are fortunate enough to have built their wealth decades ago (many of whom pay basically nothing in taxes and bought their houses dirt cheap, to add) would oppose this kind of change so passionately. It is enough to make me, an immigrant and younger resident who bought a home here recently, question my decision to call this place my home.

165. Jennifer Mazzon (*ZIP code:*)

166. Paul Bocanegra (*ZIP code:*)

Support affordable housing. We need to support vulnerable community members, not turn our backs on them, or punish them for needing help.

167. Margareet Austin (*ZIP code:*)

168. Kathleen Daly (*ZIP code:*)

As a former small business owner in Menlo Park, I employed many young people as they navigated through their educational journey. They have gone on to advanced degrees, a few doctors, lawyers,

engineers, managers, teachers and parents and all are really good humans. None of them will ever return to Menlo Park. They cannot afford to live in Menlo Park. And I am pretty confident that all of the wonderful employees in the downtown area right now cannot afford to live downtown. How long will they want to stay? How far should they have to commute?

169. Kimberly Warsaw (*ZIP code:*)

I am embarrassed and angry that a small fraction of Menlo Park residents and many businesses are trying so hard to keep our citizens who work hard, but often for little money, from living in our city. The reasons they cite - losing public parking spaces, thereby lessening the number of people who can shop and support the businesses - do not make sense and are a clear front for NIMBY sentiments. The parking lots will be replaced with parking structures. That they are happy to use taxpayer money to put a measure on the ballot to stop affordable housing is unconscionable. I wholeheartedly support new affordable homes being built on the parking lots downtown.

170. David Roise (*ZIP code:*)

171. Davina Srioudom (*ZIP code:*)

172. Alicia Torregrosa (*ZIP code:*)

I strongly support building affordable housing on downtown parking lots. I believe the new development can beautify the city and bring increased vitality to the community.

173. Ann Rarden (*ZIP code:*)

174. Rhina Zepeda (*ZIP code:*)

Pls I want one for my family I apply 2014 I am still waiting rhina Zepeda

175. Stuart Weiss (*ZIP code:*)

176. Estephanie Sunga (*ZIP code:*)

177. Robert Stolz (*ZIP code:*)

178. Dolores Castillo (*ZIP code:*)

I support the decision to build more housing for all people needs.

179. Kathleen Liston (*ZIP code: 94025*)

180. Paul Roberts (*ZIP code: 94025*)

I'm a long time Menlo Park resident who supports more housing downtown.

181. Sarah Ainsworth (*ZIP code: 94025*)

182. Jennifer Michel (*ZIP code: 94025*)

I stand with Council and honorable staff who got our housing element certified as submitted. We

cannot go back on our written word and subject ourself to default on this legal obligations. Our son's best friend will qualify for the extremely low income housing in downtown in a few years once he joins the labor market. He plans to work on transit and isn't planning on leaving for college. He understands having a physical trade skillset will always be needed given the rise of AI. Support him and support us! Love you! Jenny

183. Theresa Fox (*ZIP code:*)

Please continue to support the development of affordable housing on downtown lots!

184. William Stone (*ZIP code:*)

185. Utkarsh Nath (*ZIP code:*)

186. Justin Truong (*ZIP code:*)

187. Jennifer Shaw (*ZIP code:*)

I am a teacher who needs to find affordable housing in San Mateo County. I do have a small dog and would like to find an affordable place to live.

188. Bill Newell (*ZIP code:*)

189. Andrea Chan (*ZIP code:*)

190. Ronen Vengosh (*ZIP code:*)

I don't particularly mind if these are affordable houses or not. We need to increase all kinds of housing stock in the city.

191. Maya Kennedy (*ZIP code:*)

192. Victor Vuchic (*ZIP code:*)

Please design for people first, not cars. Mixed use is critical for our future and I support the development of downtown Menlo Park.

193. Cameron Davis (*ZIP code:*)

Build more affordable housing, especially near transit.

194. Robert Cronin (*ZIP code:* 94025)

195. Marijane Leonard (*ZIP code:* 94025)

196. Beanie Zollweg (*ZIP code:*)

Support Affordable Housing in Menlo Park. Yes to People! Yes to Housing!

197. Dovile Norkeviciute (*ZIP code:*)

198. Gail Blumberg (*ZIP code:*)

199. Elliot Krane (*ZIP code:*)

200. Shelby Fero (*ZIP code:*)

201. Leah Elkins (*ZIP code: 94025*)

Downtown is the best spot for new homes. Bringing more people to this area will reinvigorate our city and reduce car dependency.

202. Nancy Federspiel (*ZIP code: 94025*)

203. LUSANN Yang (*ZIP code:*)

Very much in favor of building new homes! We need more housing!

204. Victor Cee (*ZIP code:*)

205. Alexandra Khristich (*ZIP code:*)

California and Menlo Park specifically are in a dire housing crisis. I support building new housing to solve it!

206. Ethan Hoffmann (*ZIP code:*)

I am a psychologist serving the mental health needs of our community; however, I am not able to afford to buy a home in the community I serve. I strongly support measures to increase the housing stock, including through conversion of these parking lots into affordable or market rate housing. I also worry that the city is risking a significant fiscal liability if this law is challenged (which it likely will be) in court as flouting state law.

207. Raji G (*ZIP code:*)

208. Megan Seibel (*ZIP code:*)

209. Georgia Wluka (*ZIP code:*)

210. Lynn Huidekoper (*ZIP code:*)

Low income residents, like me, are desperate for affordable housing.

211. Emma Stanford (*ZIP code: 94025*)

212. Sheila Jimenez (*ZIP code: 94025*)

213. Monika Schleier-Smith (*ZIP code:*)

214. LinhDan Do (*ZIP code: 94025*)

215. Johnnie Walton (ZIP code: 94025)

We support new affordable homes in downtown Menlo Park!

216. An anonymous signer (ZIP code:)

217. Lesley Feldman (ZIP code: 94025)

218. Danielle Stagner (ZIP code:)

219. Jenny Michel (ZIP code: 94025)

I support our housing program that was certified under our 6th housing element with the state of California! Am I really strange because I'm for keeping our contractual obligations? Plus as a member of the business community, I'm enthusiastic about welcoming new residents and their economic benefits to our downtown! What a fantastic housing program! Applaud the staff for getting this one in the element! All my love, Jenny from the block

220. Nick Merz (ZIP code: 94025)

Affordable housing, not old cracked parking lots! Give us a vibrant downtown with life and families. No more rug stores, please.

221. Timi Most (ZIP code:)

222. Pedro & Rose Membreno (ZIP code:)

We need affordable housing

223. John Pimentel (ZIP code:)

224. Vamsi Velagapudi Velagapudi (ZIP code: 94025)

225. Kit Durgin (ZIP code:)

Affordable housing holds the promise of a diverse, housed community.

226. Luke Richards (ZIP code: 94025)

I fully support the housing proposal in downtown Menlo

227. Carolyn Ordonez (ZIP code: 94025)

228. Dayna Chung (ZIP code: 94025)

Dayna Chung

Menlo Park Parent of 3 & Resident, County Commissioner and Nonprofit Leader

229. Dayna Chung (ZIP code:)

Affordable housing is vital for working families and educators. Please support affordable housing on downtown lots.

230. Katherine Basile-Fero (*ZIP code:*)

Menlo Park is where we shop, go to the park and pool, eat out and live our lives, even if we live in Ladera. We believe housing downtown will enliven the city and create new homes for our children, grandchildren, and new neighbors who move into the city. We believe that those who work in our schools, hospitals, stores, and community should also be able to afford to live in our community. This is a win for all of us including the city's retailers. Thank you for considering these comments.

231. Lesley Feldman (*ZIP code: 94025*)