

Written Comments for  
**Regular Public Comment Section**  
- **Consent Agenda**  
- **Non Agenda Items**

**From:** [Clara Jaeckel](#)  
**To:** [CEO BoardFeedback](#); [Dave Pine](#); [David Canepa](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [Noelia Corzo](#); [Ray Mueller](#)  
**Subject:** public comment for 10/3 meeting - item not on the agenda  
**Date:** Monday, October 2, 2023 3:21:25 PM

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My name is Clara Jaeckel and I've lived and worked in San Mateo County for 26 years. This meeting's date, October 3, is the fifth anniversary of the day when San Mateo County sheriff's deputies killed Chinedu Okobi, and on this somber occasion I call on you to implement independent civilian oversight of the sheriff's office. This was not an isolated incident; it is part of a pattern of Black residents and people of color being disproportionately arrested and killed by law enforcement, and our county is not exempt from this problem or the need to grapple with it. As part of this, we urgently need to put in place an oversight board and inspector general.

True independent oversight with authority to investigate concerns and make public reports and recommendations is key to ensuring accountability and transparency for the benefit of all in our county. To be effective, the oversight board and inspector must not be part of the sheriff's office itself, but set up separately. They need to have sufficient funding from the county to do their work, and be part of the county's regular operations, so that there is no delay or doubt about the need to start ad hoc investigations, and so that county residents can rely on accountability for the sheriff's office regardless of who the current sheriff is.

So I urge you to listen to the many residents and organizations who are part of the Coalition for a Safer San Mateo County and move forward with passing a strong ordinance for civilian oversight as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
Clara Jaeckel  
Redwood City

Written Public  
Comment(s) for **Item No. 5**

**From:** [Amanda Chang](#)  
**To:** [CEO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Item 5: Urgent Call to Address the County Housing Element  
**Date:** Monday, October 2, 2023 3:50:13 PM

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Dear honorable Supervisors of San Mateo County,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Measure K reallocation. My name is Amanda Chang, a staff member at Urban Habitat, and I was born and raised in District 1 of San Mateo County, where my family and I still live. I strongly believe that everyone deserves affordable and secure housing and hope you take this important opportunity to allocate more Measure K funds for affordable housing.

San Mateo County does not have enough affordable housing to meet the need and many families with special housing needs are priced out of the area or struggle with a high rent burden. In past years, Measure K has provided an essential source of funding for affordable homes. However, the challenges facing the affordable housing industry mean more funding will be necessary to continue the county's track record of affordable housing development.

My parents are both immigrants but managed to buy a home in the early 80s to raise a family. I didn't have to worry about whether I'd have a roof over my head, which allowed me to grow up in a safe and healthy environment in which I could succeed socially and academically. However, I can no longer afford to do what my parents did in San Mateo County. I grew up roaming the streets of Grand Avenue and hanging out at Tanforan mall with my friends, but now these areas are the building sites for high-rise luxury apartments like the Bell South City or NINE88 where a single bedroom apartment is, at minimum, \$3,000 a month. Meanwhile, if you want to purchase a home in South San Francisco, you have to compete with thousands of other people in a lottery for just *two* BMR units. A young working individual such as myself can't even find a place to house myself in San Mateo County, let alone think about starting to raise a family here.

San Mateo County will always be my home and I am so lucky to have grown up in our vibrant community, but we must address the severe lack of affordable housing so others can have that same opportunity. To do so, I believe we must prioritize increasing:

- The Affordable Housing Fund to at least \$20 million annually.
- The staff support in the Department of Housing by at least \$400,000, which will enable the hiring of a designated staff person to focus on housing element implementation and tenant protections enforcement.
- The legal aid services by \$669,851 (\$469,851 to close looming funding gaps and \$200,000 in new money to enhance enforcement).

Once again, I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to serving our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Chang, Program Manager of Equitable Development  
Urban Habitat

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**Amanda Chang (all pronouns)**

Program Manager of Equitable Development  
Urban Habitat

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Dear Honorable Supervisors of San Mateo County,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Measure K reallocation. I am writing to express Public Advocates' support for increasing Measure K funding for: affordable housing production, staff capacity to implement the Housing Element and tenant protections, and legal services to protect tenants from displacement and homelessness.

Public Advocates is a nonprofit law firm and advocacy organization that challenges the systemic causes of poverty and racial discrimination by strengthening community voices in public policy and achieving tangible legal victories advancing education, housing, transportation equity, and climate justice. We have a long history of working alongside San Mateo County community members in the fight to ensure affordable and secure housing for all.

San Mateo County does not have enough affordable housing to meet the need and many families with special housing needs are priced out of the area or struggle with a high rent burden. In past years, Measure K has provided an essential source of funding for affordable homes. However, the challenges facing the affordable housing industry mean more funding will be necessary to continue the county's track record of affordable housing development.

For the past several years, we have supported residents in San Mateo County who have struggled in the wake of the housing affordability crisis, which has exacerbated issues for many of the County's most vulnerable residents. We believe that stable and secure housing is at the center of building strong communities. As prices go up and the supply of affordable units is unable to keep up with housing demand, more tenants are enduring substandard housing and becoming vulnerable to hostile living conditions and habitability issues, while the most vulnerable are facing displacement and homelessness. Evidence has shown throughout the Bay Area that jurisdictions that commit to affordable housing development and strong tenant protection policies have proven to increase stability, safety, and security for tenants. For the County to address the housing crisis, the County must prioritize increasing Measure K funding in the following areas:

- Increase the annual allocation to the Affordable Housing Fund to at least \$20 million annually to subsidize development of affordable homes in order to meet the County's affordable housing goals.
- Increase funding to the Department of Housing by \$400,000 to support staff capacity to implement policy recommendations for the County's Housing Element and to implement the pending Tenant Protection Ordinance.
- Increase funding for the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County for eviction defense by at least \$669,851 to a total of \$847,684 – to close the looming funding gap due to expiration of COVID-era eviction defense funding programs.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to serving our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Latrel Powell

Law Fellow

Public Advocates

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