

From: Libby & Len Traubman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:31:36 PM
To: Julia Klein
Subject: Julia Klein -- from Len Traubman -- Public Comment

Dear Julia,

For your use, including place on your Web site, is my Public Comment on San Mateo Affordable Housing from the Vision meeting tonight, Wednesday, 27 February 2019, at the San Mateo Public Library.

Please confirm that you receive this e-mail.

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SAN MATEO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

My wife, Libby, and I, residents of San Mateo for 41 or our 51 married years, experience a lot of grief every time a new building rises with access only to high-rent businesses and wealthy residents. **Our hearts break** when our San Mateo housing and building monopoly with financial advantage dismisses, excludes, and banishes citizens who lack inordinate wealth.

It is the tragic downward slope of our county and nation – 400 people (.00025) own more than 150 million (60 percent) of our poorest citizens. The rich are getting richer, the poor, poorer.

Our family's African-American San Mateo friends are vanishing -- banished by property and rental costs with their Pilgrim Baptist Church to the East Bay.

I ask airport workers, shopkeepers, domestic workers, restaurant staffs, office employees: "What time did you wake up to come to work in San Mateo?" They commonly say: "Three or four a.m." Tens of thousands of commuters to and from San Mateo live tortured lives having to spend three or four hours each day in their cars – wrecking their family life, health, and spirits – burning up fossil fuel, burning out.

Honestly, this is also a continuation of racial and cultural exclusion, a meanness – a sign of San Mateo moral and spiritual decline – as sure as Roosevelt's supposed economic incentives were passed into law only because they **excluded agricultural and domestic workers, mostly people of color.**

A Bay Area U.S. Congressperson recently told me: "The people in Washington are weak." Until today, San Mateo government has offered the most meager, tiniest tokens of affordable housing, always favoring the tax base, the golden calf, the city's bank balance.

I appeal to you to be better than this weakness of money-only. **Housing is too important to be left to private enterprise only.**

If planners can be strong, be moral, be our spiritual best, then San Mateo can be that kind of place, too.

Please see more than dollars. **See the people** who need to live here, for their very lives, for who we hope to become – our best vision.