

From: Martha Ekdahl
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 6:55 AM
To: Council Members
Subject: A Letter in Support of Housing

To the honorable Brisbane City Council,

Tonight, many housing activists will attend your meeting where the fate of nearly 700 vacant acres in your city will be decided. I'm sorry we'll be there tonight, to pester you, our regional neighbors, into allowing more housing here in Brisbane. But that's precisely the reason we have to be here tonight. Because so many other regional neighbors before you did not allow housing. Because so many other regional neighbors with transit access, like you, did not allow housing. Because so many other regional neighbors with small town feels, like you, did not allow housing. Because so many other regional neighbors, like you, prefer people to stay during the workday, but go home---elsewhere, at night. And now. We're here. Asking you to contribute when so many other regional neighbors have shirked their responsibility to allow housing to be built. And we'll stand before you tired. Tired from the almost endless list of [tragedies](#) of this housing shortage. Tired from [organizing](#) to save one family at a time. Tired from [clawing](#) our way to housing security. You see we rally around our neighbors in trouble, facing threats of displacement. But there's so many facing displacement now, we are losing the ability and energy to save each one. We have organized ourselves from many backgrounds and will do as much as we can when it comes to saving those already here and we will continue to do so. But, we have to face our perceived enemy and say we won't let the fear of new housing harm any more of us. We will build housing. Everywhere in the Bay. And we will build housing for everyone. And as long as your village, township, town, city, municipality, whatever you want to call it, has vacant or unused land here in the bay area, you're helping to halt more displacement. You're contributing to the housing stock of which there is a shortage. We are no longer "bedroom communities." Feeding off of each other's office spaces and returning home each night to an exclusive enclave. We contribute more than that for one another now. Starting with housing.

I urge you to only consider a development plan that maximizes the number of homes that can be built in this community. Homes that will house the citizens who will send their children to school here, visit their doctor down the street, play recreational sports in the new facilities, and contribute to a safe healthy environment just by living near where they work.

Sincerely,

Martha Ekdahl
Oakland, CA