

August 15, 2019

Napa City Council  
955 School Street  
Napa, CA 94559

RE: HERITAGE HOUSE – CITY PROJECT FILE NO. PL17-0114

To City Council Members:

I am a 9-year resident of the South East Vintage neighborhood and **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the plans to convert the abandoned Sunrise Assisted Living facility to Heritage House and Valle Verde Housing as it is defined today under the *No Place Like Home Program*.

I believe as a community we should continue to build a better Napa, which means addressing what's affecting our quality of life and looking for solutions. This latest proposal for the renovation of the Sunrise facility is an assault on the quality of our neighborhood as we know it and not a resolution. As a city, we need to solve the problem instead of simply moving it around!

On August 13, 2019, ABC 7 News reported statistics of their research on homeless people in each of the 9 bay area counties going back to 2007. It was no surprise to see San Francisco and Alameda counties rank one and two, respectively, for homeless people given their population. Napa county is the Bay areas smallest county by population and has the smallest homeless population. In 2007, the Napa county homeless census showed 365 homeless, dropped to 230 in 2011, and has steadily risen to 323 today. I mention these statistics because from the surface it would appear the funding of \$7,921, 804 Napa received would be better served in a county with a more serious issue of homelessness. For example, Alameda county received approximately \$42.8 million in funding for a homeless population of +8000. An average of \$5350/per person. Napa counties funding award of \$7.9 mil for +300 homeless equates to approximately \$24,500/per person. I applaud who ever sold this bill of goods for Napa county but are we wasting taxpayer money??

Under Governor Brown's landmark legislation, No Place Like Home is designed to serve adults with serious mental illness, or children with severe emotional disorders and their families, and chronically homeless. Most homeless people with serious mental illnesses are NOT receiving treatment – many don't even know they are ill. *Mental illness is a disease of the brain and affects an individual's decision-making capacity.* How can you place such a facility near the Silverado Creek Apartments, medical offices, families with young and teenage children and senior assisted living neighborhood? This is wrong on so many levels.

There are so many other alternatives that would enhance quality of life in our community. How about supporting our farmworkers? There are 5,000+ farmworkers who labor in our vineyards in Napa alone. There are three publicly owned housing centers for the farmworkers - none of which are in Napa. What about affordable housing for our seniors? Or helping young adults' transition from foster care to their own place?

In closing, I sincerely hope you reconsider the Heritage House project to a more viable, mutually agreed upon housing development.

Regards,

Ms. C. Bukala  
Napa, Ca 94558

