August 6, 2019
Public Comment to Napa City Council

I am Rosemarie Vertullo and I am a resident of 103 Summerbrooke Circle here in Napa. We are speaking for myself, Earle Craigie who is also a resident of 103 Summerbrooke Circle as well as others in my neighborhood.

First I want to say that we support projects such as the Heritage House/Valle Verde Project. What we do not support is the location of this project. Additionally some of the requirements or lack thereof for the residents of this projects are not optimal.

This facility is going to be a permanent housing solution for adults or older adults with a "Serious Mental Disorder "or "Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children or Adolescents."

While supportive services such as mental health care, crisis counseling, individual and/or group therapy are a required to be provided by the "No Place Like Home Grant Program," THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT THAT THESE SERVICES BE PROVIDED ONSITE OR FOR RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE. NOR CAN ACCESS TO OR CONTINUED OCCUPANCE BE CONDITIONED ON A RESIDENT'S SOBRIETY. This situation sets up the residents of this facility for failure.

There are many elderly who reside in this area and children who walk to school every day in this area. There is concern that our elderly and children who will no longer be able to access and/or benefit from the use of the many walking paths and open spaces unique to our neighborhood. Review of Napa City Police Department crime statistics in the area around the South Napa Homeless Shelter demonstrate that these concerns are not unfounded.

Additionally, the mix of 24 affordable housing units for extra low-income families mixed in with 66 assisted single-occupancy living units for residents with serious mental health and substance abuse issues is a recipe for disaster. It seems unfair and unsafe to subject families with children to be required to live alongside persons who will not be required to participate in mental health and/or sobriety programs.

We are also very concerned about the negative impacts this intensified use will have on the Salvador Creek ecosystem and traffic congestion in an already traffic-congested area.

We believe that this location could be put to a better use such as homeless seniors, low-income seniors, or young adults graduating from the foster care program.

The Heritage House project as sponsored by the County, City and the Gasser Foundation will create problems for the residents of the project and problems in our area that currently do not exist.

Thank you,

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