

Katherine F. Allen  
2040 Santa Clara Ave, Apt P  
Alameda, CA 94501

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Alameda City Council  
2263 Santa Clara Ave  
Alameda, CA 94501

**Re: BMR Housing Preference Points**

Dear Ms. Potter,

I'm an Alameda resident and single parent of a 5 yo son. My family struggles to manage logistics and finances on a regular basis. My current rent is sometimes over 75% of my total monthly income and at times all of my income while my other expenses are pushed to credit. I have desperately looked into ways to cut my overhead and have managed to secure incredible amounts of financial aid for my son's preschool and currently independent school. However, I cannot manage to cut my housing overhead as hard as I try to take advantage of the programs meant to help low-income families like myself.

Specifically, the Preference Point system for affordable housing ownership opportunities which awards a point for having 3 occupants or more determining lottery round essentially excludes my son and I from ever qualifying for affordable housing in Alameda. At the same time, families with 2 breadwinners and one child get preference over my family and they have a chance period to get a low number in the first lottery round. This feels incredibly discriminatory and unfair.

I spoke to Joey Shields at Hello Housing back in May of this year and he stated that the current Preference Point system was developed in the 90's. I would like to suggest as evidenced by the data below that family structures have changed a great deal in the past 20+ years and that the Preference Point system and/or configurations of affordable housing made available may need to be re-structured to account for these changes.

Both sources below utilize data from the U.S. Census Bureau which we know to be outdated by approximately 10 years due to the length of time required to obtain and process the data. My educated guess is that these figures are a best case representation of current norms which are likely skewed to reflect a higher % of single parent families.

*Submitted by Katherine Allen  
under Oral Communications  
at the 9/19/17 meeting*

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2016/cb16-192.html>

- Households have grown smaller over time, reflecting the decrease in family size and the rise of living alone. The average number of people living in each household has declined from 3.3 people in 1960 to 2.5 today. (published 11/17/16)
- Between 1960 and 2016, the percentage of children living in families with two parents decreased from 88 to 69.
- During the 1960-2016 period, the percentage of children living with only their mother nearly tripled from 8 to 23 percent and the percentage of children living with only their father increased from 1 to 4 percent.

[http://lib.post.ca.gov/Publications/Building%20a%20Career%20Pipeline%20Documents/Safe\\_Harbor.pdf](http://lib.post.ca.gov/Publications/Building%20a%20Career%20Pipeline%20Documents/Safe_Harbor.pdf)

"Twenty five million children are growing up without fathers in the home. That's 40% of the kids in America. As reported by the Center for Children and Families: 40% of all live births in the US are to single mothers"

I would like to request past data on housing lotteries for affordable housing in Alameda. I would like to know if any affordable housing has been allocated beyond the first lottery round and, if so, how much relative to the total volume of applicants. I would also like to know what the family structures look like for the families who have obtained affordable housing in Alameda.

I would also like to be informed of any public meetings on this topic which I might be able to attend and weigh in on.

If I can provide any helpful analysis of the data or insight into possible solutions to this obvious dilemma, I am happy to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to hearing back from you. I'm reachable by email at [kallenyc@gmail.com](mailto:kallenyc@gmail.com) or on my cell at (917) 627-9731.

Regards,

**Katherine Allen**





September 18, 2017

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Honorable Mayor Spencer, Vice-Mayor Vella, and Councilmembers Ashcraft, Matarrese and Oddie,

As Alameda residents and voters, as Alameda business men and women, and as GABA Board Members, we are looking forward to working with you and City Staff on transportation solutions that meet the needs of ALL Alamedans.

As you make your decision on the upcoming *Draft Transportation Choices Plan* we request that you take into consideration the following transportation options and services of an Alameda Intracity Shuttle in conjunction with, or in lieu of, the High Priority 'Crosstown Express Bus Service' noted in Projects & Programs Item 18. Specifically:

- Frequent service, with 10-minute headways during peak hours: no more than 15-minute headways during most business hours, and 30-minute headways during off-peak hours.
- Free service to the end user: a system without fare boxes -removing significant barriers to ridership and encouraging greater use.
- Routes that serve schools, parks, senior facilities, business districts large and small, and are within three blocks or less of most Alameda residences.
- Clean fuel vehicles with accommodations for bicycles.
- Connections to regional transportation hubs – BART and the ferry terminals – to not only ease congestion at our existing choke points, but also encourage ridership by visitors and those who commute to work to our island.

GABA and its members believe that our proposed Intracity Shuttle plan is a critical component of Alameda's multi-modal transportation solution, and best addresses the needs of all Alamedans. We encourage you to make an Alameda Intracity Shuttle a reality.

DocuSigned by:  
Dania R. Alvarez  
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Dania R. Alvarez, President

Cc: Lara Weisiger, City Clerk

For distribution & inclusion into 9/19 City Council Meeting Agenda

Submitted by Tony Kuttner  
under Oral Communications  
at the 9/19/17 meeting