

September 25, 2018

Doug Biggs, Executive Director  
Alameda Point Collaborative  
877 West Ranger Ave.  
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Mr. Biggs,

Thank you for presenting to the Social Service Human Relations Board (the Board) at our April 26, 2018 meeting about the Alameda Point Collaborative's (APC) proposed development of the Alameda Wellness Center on McKay Avenue. At its June 28, 2018 meeting, the Board discussed the proposed project, and following thoughtful deliberation, voted unanimously to authorize this letter of support for the Alameda Wellness Center.

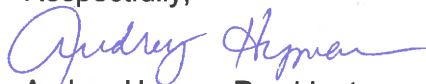
The Board received a number of written and verbal public comments regarding the Center. Issues that were raised included: children's safety; increased traffic on a narrow street; increased loitering and congregation of homeless individuals in the neighborhood, who may have mental health, behavioral and/or substance abuse disorders; and the legality of building on open space. The Board takes these concerns seriously and carefully considered them in its deliberation. Many of these issues have been addressed in the City-prepared Alameda Wellness Center FAQs, which may be found on the City's website at <https://alamedaca.gov/mckayfaq>. We are also confident that APC will continue to engage with the community to develop strategies and workable solutions to maintain the integrity of the neighborhood. As such, the Board supports APC in its pursuit in establishing the Alameda Wellness Center.

The Board is responsible for assessing the social service needs of the community and facilitating the implementation and delivery of programs, services, resources, and efforts to address these needs. The Board's 2017 Community Needs Assessment report, approved by the City Council in June 2018, noted that Alameda residents expressed a high need for health care facilities and found homeless shelters/homeless services to be the second most pressing social services need in the City, behind transportation. The proposed Alameda Wellness Center provides an opportunity to address these important issues.

As well, the Alameda Wellness Center was referenced as one of the policy options for the homeless in the City's *Homelessness Report (March 2018)*. The Center's proposed 90-bed assisted living facility will aid the city's frailest and most vulnerable older adult population living on the streets and suffering from debilitating illnesses due to their complex and chronic medical and psychosocial conditions. The 50-bed medical respite and rehabilitative facility also offers an upstream solution to a downstream problem by reducing the frequency of emergency room visits and avoiding hospital readmissions that are preventable with proper care transition support for homeless individuals.

On behalf of the Board, we applaud your efforts in ensuring that our homeless residents are served with compassion and humanity, so that they can live their lives with the dignity and quality they deserve.

Respectfully,

  
Audrey Hyman, President