

November 1, 2021

To: City Clerk

From: Karen Bey

Subject: Written Comment for 11/2/21 City Council Meeting - Agenda Item 7-A

City Staff is recommending the use of the Big Whites at Alameda Point for the next allocation of Project Homekey funds, and there is a suggestion that because the Marina Village Inn did not submit an RFP for the Project Homekey program, the city is looking at other hotel sites on the West End. There is speculation that the hotel being considered is the Roadway Inn which is in Webster Street's gateway corridor.

Not only is the city continuing to locate all the Project Homekey projects on the West End, the proposed projects are located within the West End's historical districts, gateway corridors, and waterfront districts, which are strategic economic development areas on the West End.

During the October 5th Council meeting, several people challenged the City Council about placing all the Project Homekey projects on the West End, and at Alameda Point. We cited Fair Housing laws, and red-lining concerns and asked the council for a more equitable distribution of these projects. As the city moves forward with identifying new projects for the next tranche of Project Homekey funds, I am again asking the Council to consider the Fair Housing concerns previously raised by members of the community and spread these projects throughout the community.

Here are some suggestions to consider for the next tranche of Project Homekey funds:

For the short term:

- Develop the Village of Love site for the additional 30 units as a short-term solution instead of creating yet another site at Alameda Point. The Big Whites have been identified as an adaptive-re-use project located in Alameda Point's historic district.

For the long term:

- Fund the 90-unit homeless project at the North Housing site.
- Approach developers to convert the Roadway Inn, and the Coral Reef Inn into mixed use housing projects with both market rate and affordable housing units.
- Contribute Project Homekey funds to cover the affordable housing component of these development projects.
- This approach addresses the long-term problems of homelessness
- This approach promotes a "mixed-community" which is a more favorable approach to affordable housing. Both projects are located close to community amenities.
- These investments enhance and improve the districts where these buildings are located, creating jobs, and much needed housing. It could also be a model for future projects.
- This approach begins to address the equitable distribution, fair housing concerns raised by members of the community.