

January 28, 2020

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 W. Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Board of Supervisors, Santa Clara County:

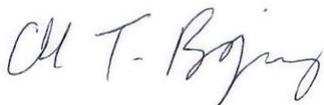
In response to Board Referral 100153, "Consider recommendations relating to the creation of a Homelessness Task Force and Action Plan. (Cortese)", the Lived Experience Advisory Board requests representation on the Task Force, should plans proceed favorably, for the following seats: "a local advocate for our unhoused population, an unhoused resident of Santa Clara County, and a recently, formerly unhoused resident of Santa Clara County". We have 16 officially elected members and a wider circle of allies sharing our common goal of shifting relative power to those affected and contributing collaboratively to solutions that work.

The Lived Experience Advisory Board, as a subcommittee of the Santa Clara County Continuum of Care, has been advising the County, and the community at large, on issues of housing and homelessness for nearly two years. Our organized and democratically elected membership embodies a diverse representation of currently and formerly homeless individuals, with not only unique and relevant experiences, but a dedication to solutions and improving the system of care.

Over the last year, in addition to an awesome commendation from the Board of Supervisors, the Lived Experience Advisory Board has delivered a robust feedback report to the largest shelter provider in the County, made formally adopted funding recommendations for State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funds, audited policies and procedures, contributed to the Community Plan to End Homelessness development process, and advised various community interest groups on a variety of topics that intersect with homelessness. Additionally, the Board has invested in leadership development and policy work through a unique partnership with SOMOS Mayfair.

The topics of shelter, interim housing, transitional housing, and all other immediate to mid-term solutions for unhoused residents is of particular concern and expertise for members of the Lived Experience Advisory Board. We applaud this effort to try and put some organization and structure behind how we address these aspects of our supportive housing system, and request to be a part of the solution through appointments to this task force.

In service to our community,



Chad Bojorquez (Board Member)
On behalf of the **Lived Experience Advisory Board**
<https://destinationhomesv.org/leab>