



July 20, 2020

Regina Wallace-Jones, Mayor
And Honorable Members of the City Council
City of East Palo Alto
2415 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

RE: Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Ballot Measure

Dear Mayor Wallace-Jones and Members of the City Council,

As City of East Palo Alto's designated community partners in its Partnership for the Bay's Future Challenge Grant, we write to thank you for considering the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) as a sustainable revenue source to fund our housing preservation work.

Partnership for the Bay's Future is a collaborative regional effort to build a prosperous, inclusive, vibrant, and livable Bay Area. Built on deep conversations and input from Bay Area communities, the Partnership brings together organizations from all perspectives and all walks of life to ensure that all Bay Area residents have stable, affordable homes and to create the Bay Area we want to see for the next generation.

With City Council and voters' support, East Palo Alto will become one of the first Challenge Grant recipients to identify a sustainable funding source for housing preservation that can be matched by regional and state funds. This TOT funding will support affordable housing acquisition, development, and rehabilitation; enable tenants to buy a house or apartment building about to be sold; and create affordable rental and homeownership opportunities.

We look forward to supporting you in getting this ballot measure approved by East Palo Alto voters, and in continuing this important affordable housing work in our City.

Sincerely,

Duane Bay, EPA CAN DO
Ofelia Bello, Youth United for Community Action
Keith Ogden, Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto