

April 16, 2021

Supervisors Matt Haney, Ahsha Safai, Gordon Mar, Finance Committee Board of Supervisors 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244 San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: File #201187 Letter of Recommendation for A Place for All

Dear Supervisors Haney, Safai and Mar,

The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association (HVNA) wishes to express our support for A Place For All.

This legislation sponsored by Supervisor Mandelman provides a path towards ending street sleeping by proposing a City policy to provide shelter to all who wish to accept it, and additionally requiring the City to create sufficient interim off-street shelter placements.

In Hayes Valley, we supported Safe Sleeping sites. We saw a rise in street sleeping, which grew exponentially during the early part of the pandemic, with large encampments blocking sidewalks and creating unsafe and unsanitary conditions both for the people in the encampments and immediate neighbors. We circulated a petition in support of the creation of Safe Sleeping Site at 33 Gough Street, as well as other potential locations, and found there was widespread support of this effort.

We understand that more than 70% of San Francisco voters have identified homelessness and street conditions as the top issue for the City to address. While the solution for homelessness is housing, the long waiting list leaves people with few options while awaiting a placement. Safe sleeping sites are a proven, scalable and sustainable model. A Place for All will help close the gap in shelter availability by offering a safe, managed site. We need this critical first step from homelessness to housing.

The Board of the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association wishes to add its voice in support of A Place for All.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Laska

President

Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association

Barbara Early

Corresponding Secretary

cc: Supervisors Dean Preston, Aaron Peskin, Connie Chan, Rafael Mandelman, Myrna Melgar, Hillary Ronen, Shamann Walton Victor Young, Kyle Smealie, DeAnthony Jones Rescue SF HVNA Board