

From: Justin Alley < >

Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:52 PM

To: Clerk <clerk@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Regarding "718 Tilton Avenue – Property Owner Appeal of Relocation Benefits"

Dear City Council and City Staff,

It has come to the community's attention that a property at 718 Tilton Ave. has been condemned for egregious violations of health and safety and that relocation benefits be paid pursuant to the so-called "red-tag relocation ordinance" which One San Mateo advocated for and the Council in its wisdom adopted in 2019. It has further come to the community's attention that the property owner has invoked the provision of that ordinance permitting them to appeal the decision to the City Council.

Based on the copious facts at hand, we fully agree with the recommendations of city staff that the appeal be rejected. The evidence enclosed in the packet accompanying this agenda item vividly documents substandard and unsafe conditions in which no person should be made to live. It is appalling that the property owner would have known about these conditions and allowed them to persist as long as they did. It also says something about the extreme scarcity of affordable housing that 11 families could find nowhere better to live than in sheds, a garage, and an illegally partitioned basement. These families, though, should not simply be thrown out into the cold. It is for these reasons that the Council has stipulated relocation assistance for tenants displaced from substandard housing.

The case under appeal is an instantiation of just the sort of thing for which the "red-tag relocation assistance" ordinance was intended. We encourage the Council to bring the full force of that ordinance to bear on the situation now before it.

Regards,

Justin Alley

Secretary of Communications of One San Mateo
Resident of San Mateo