

**From:** Penny Nixon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 3:35 PM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <[CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org)>  
**Cc:** St. James AME Zion Church <[REDACTED]>; Benjamin Meyers <[REDACTED]>; Peninsula Solidarity <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Supporting our homeless neighbors

Dear City Council members,

We have learned that the County will present to you tonight the possibility of the purchase of two hotels in San Mateo to serve as transitional housing for our homeless neighbors and the housing insecure in our communities. Rev Marlyn Bussey and I are the co-directors of the Peninsula Solidarity Cohort and are both pastors in San Mateo. On behalf of the cohort, we would like to offer our enthusiastic support of this proposal and also offer what tangible help we can provide for helping this to become a reality. We know this has worked in other counties and cities, and we have seen in our own city the great success of the Vendome right near both of our churches.

We all know that homeless has increased during the pandemic and the threat of homelessness looms over thousands in our county due to possible evictions. We also know that hundreds of people in our city are in debt for back rent, again due to COVID forced unemployment.

We trust you will be open to this proposal and that together we will see it as in alignment with our city's general plan. The Peninsula Solidarity Cohort has as its mission to help San Mateo County (and city) be a place of belonging for all residents. Certainly this would be one huge step forward toward this goal in our view.

On a personal note, the two hotels on El Camino are just a couple of blocks from my house and I would be happy to do some neighborhood canvassing to garner support if that would be beneficial to you as a council.

We are unable to attend the meeting tonight but wanted to send this letter of support.

Thanks for all your service to our city,

With gratitude,

Revs. Marlyn Bussey and Penny Nixon  
Co-directors, Peninsula Solidarity Cohort

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**Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon**  
Senior Minister

Congregational Church of San Mateo  
...open, progressive, spiritual



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Blessings and care,  
Ben

Chris Puntarelli