



3921 E. BAYSHORE ROAD, PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94303 - (650) 903-0600 - [www.lwvpaloalto.org](http://www.lwvpaloalto.org)

---

January 14, 2019

Palo Alto City Council  
250 Hamilton Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**Re: Agenda Item No. : \_\_\_\_\_; Wilton Court Project at 3703-3709 El Camino Real**

Dear Mayor Filseth and City Council Members,

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto supports City efforts to encourage the development of subsidized low to moderate and below market rate housing by private non-profit developers. The League also supports increasing multi-unit housing with access to public transportation along transportation corridors.

For these reasons, we encourage you to accept the findings of the Architectural Review Board and approve the recommendations in the Staff Report to allow the non-profit Palo Alto Housing (PAH) to develop 59 studio apartments on this site. All units in the project would be deed-restricted for low and very-low income individuals including 21 units for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Land appropriate for multi-unit housing is scarce in Palo Alto. This site, although small, is a good one, for it is on a bus transit corridor; it is near many services; and it is not directly adjacent to single-family homes.

This is a perfect opportunity for you to apply the Affordable Housing Combining District to this site. It is also appropriate and necessary for you to waive the Retail Preservation Requirements so that this project can be economically feasible without further impacting the neighborhood with additional retail parking and traffic. We also encourage you to approve the request for the Design Enhancement Exception as this would allow for more parking spaces, which would help address the concerns of some neighbors. We also note that PAH has done much to address these parking and traffic concerns through various measures including a Traffic Demand Management (TDM) program.

This project will not only provide workforce housing for people we depend on in our community—but it also will provide otherwise scarce inclusive housing for adults with developmental disabilities, many of whom also work in this community. In the past, Palo Alto had been a leader in the provision of affordable housing. Now is the time for the Council to put our City back on that track.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aisha Piracha-Zakariya".

Aisha Piracha-Zakariya  
*President*  
League of Women Voters of Palo Alto