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Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 6:41 PM
To: Planning Commission
Cc: Geoff Rohde; Sarah Danley-IRWS
Subject: Housing Element

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To the Planning Commission,

Thank you for the work you are doing with the Housing Element.

Page 206 of the Draft Housing Element states that HEART of Davis has a 40-bed emergency shelter capacity. Currently HEART is running the Davis Emergency Shelter Program, (DESP), which ends on July 31, 2021. This program is funded by time-limited COVID-inspired ESG-CV1 & 2 grants. DESP is not a conventional emergency shelter. The 23 apartments in Davis provide shelter primarily for those most at-risk for complications from COVID 19, i.e., seniors and those with pre-existing conditions that make them vulnerable to COVID-19.

At this time there are 36 participants housed in DESP 2-bedroom apartments.

Beginning August 1, 2021, HEART will begin a new Bridge program. This is not an emergency shelter program, rather it is a **rapid rehousing program**. 20 apartments will be available to house around 20-25 participants. Participants must pay 30% of their adjusted income towards rent. The Bridge program ends on July 31, 2022.

The Bridge program was inspired by HEART's experience running DESP. Participants in DESP became long-term emergency shelter residents because of the length of time it takes to receive a housing voucher (up to 5 years). Because of Davis's extremely low rental vacancy, participants that receive vouchers can still wait up to a year before finding an apartment that meets the affordability requirements of their voucher.

Project RoomKey will also be ending this summer.

In Table 72, you list Empower YOLO as having a 35-bed year-round emergency shelter. These beds are intended-for/limited-to individuals affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and child abuse. Participants, in the Empower YOLO shelter, were not included in the Point in Time Count of 190 individuals. We recommend that these restricted beds should not be included in this table.

I believe the DCMH beds are restricted to only those who are unsheltered, and clean and sober. Perhaps this limitation deserves an asterisk with explanation?

Also, and this is most important, after July 31, 2021 there will, essentially, be no emergency shelter beds in Davis. We believe it is important that Table 72 and the succeeding calculations, which are intended to guide policy for up to 8 years, be changed in the Housing Element. The need for emergency shelter as presented in the Davis Housing Element draft report underestimates this need for by at least 80 beds.

The statement regarding existing shelter capacity (pg. 206) should read:

*"Based on the most recent point in time homeless count of 190 individuals and existing shelter capacity for approximately **10** individuals, a need for at least **180** shelter beds remains. Based on the City's limitation of 35 beds on shelters that are permitted by right, it is estimated that **five** sites would be necessary to accommodate the City's remaining need for **180** emergency shelter beds."*

Additionally, on page 145, the following sentence should be removed:

“The Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter provides cold weather shelter to the Davis homeless population at different member congregations throughout the winter.”

IRWS no longer exists and the new program, HEART of Davis, will not be running a rotating winter shelter.

The Social Services Commission has drafted an excellent document, the Housing Trust Fund. We encourage the Planning Commission to include the Housing Trust Fund draft as an appendix to the Housing Element.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you again for your time.

Regards,

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