

**Jessica Lynch**

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**From:** Aurora Schunemann <aschunemann@ucdavis.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:31 PM  
**To:** Planning Commission  
**Subject:** Housing Element Public Comment

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Dear Davis Planning Commission,

My name is Aurora Schunemann and I am writing in my capacity as an undergraduate student and the President of the Davis College Democrats.

Davis is in a housing crisis. People are sleeping in tent colonies in Davis tonight. People are sleeping in RVs. Over the last decades thousands and thousands of people that could live in Davis haven't been able to afford it. Davis needs more housing and city policy needs to allow it. Not a little bit more, a lot more, and we especially need it near campus and downtown.

The Housing Element draft released by the city will doom Davis to a future of exclusion, unaffordability, overcrowding, climate change, traffic congestion, racial and class segregation, and do significant harm to the surrounding region.

There is another, better way, and it involves prioritizing Davis values and community needs over building exteriors and landowner wealth. Other cities have shown the way to reform, including

- \*Raise housing units allowed per parcel
- \*Raise floor area ratio maximums
- \*Reduce minimum setbacks
- \*Eliminate parking minimums
- \*Convert commercial-only zoning to also allow dense housing
- \*Affordable housing density bonus
- \*Racial justice density bonus in areas that formerly had racist deed covenants and other exclusionary measures
- \*Rezone city-owned surface parking lots for dense affordable housing
- \*Zone higher than 30du/acre in appropriate locations
- \*Switch development approval process from discretionary to ministerial to support the rapid approval of new housing

Sincerely,

Aurora Schunemann

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**Aurora Schünemann**

President, Davis College Democrats  
University of California, Davis 2022

*PGPs: she/her/hers*