

*[Editor's note: This letter was emailed on Monday, January 27, 2025 to the president and vice president of the PRA, other residents associations, and, we assume, other county residents.]*

Dear Kira and Jeff,

I am reaching out today to update you on the ongoing discussion on housing and how we address our housing crisis particularly the need to address affordability.

First, I want to reiterate my thanks for the continued discussion of these issues and your continued advocacy and feedback.

Where we are at the moment is that two of my colleagues will be introducing legislation in the next day or so.

This legislation will go through the full, public legislative process at the Council including a public hearing, consideration by the Planning, Housing, and Parks (PHP) Committee of the Council, and consideration by the full Council. And I plan to continue to have my own meetings and conversations with residents in addition to our formal process at the Council.

We know our housing crisis has been decades in the making, and it will take many strategies for us to ensure that young adults, seniors, and working families can all afford to live here.

Based on my initial review of the legislation, I believe the proposed legislation moves us in the right direction to address our housing needs, especially for working families such as our teachers, firefighters, nurses, and police officers.

In my read of the legislation it also addresses many concerns raised by community members:

- Considering infrastructure capacity
- Building housing near transit
- Parking in single family neighborhoods
- Focusing on affordability
- Including office to residential conversions
- Prioritizing public input and not permitting "by right" construction

As I noted above this will go through the full process of review at the Council and look forward to discussing the details with you and if there are ways we can improve the legislation I want to have those conversations with you. I already have a few questions and topics to raise for discussion as we go through the process.

As we have been in communication with you about housing in the county, I wanted to make sure to let you know I plan to cosponsor the legislation as I believe it is a step in the right direction and it is important that we move forward in addressing our housing crisis.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and look forward to continuing the conversation.

Kate