

**Late
Correspondence
(Received after
12 pm
June 4, 2025)**

Late Correspondence

From: Shen, Alisa
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 2:32 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Fw: AGAINST "Middle Housing"

From: Anne Weinberger <anneweinberger240@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 2:29:34 PM
To: Shen, Alisa <AShen@berkeleyca.gov>; All Council <council@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: AGAINST "Middle Housing"

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commission and City Council,

I am writing as a homeowner and resident of Berkeley to express my dismay at the Middle Housing proposal. The existing Berkeley allowances for multiple ADU's, maximization of lot coverage and increased height are already well beyond what this city can handle, and will diminish the quality of life—and safety—of all residents...present and future.

The amount of building that the Middle Housing proposal will allow will

- go well beyond the capacity of our infrastructure
- increase congestion on our already narrow streets, making fire fighting and escape routes even more treacherous than the already are
- severely decrease the trees and garden spaces in our city (trees and gardens sink carbon, give us the oxygen we need to breathe, and provide places for people to gather, grow food, and play--all things that used to be the PRIDE of Berkeley.
- make our neighborhoods an ugly amalgam of random maxed-out developments casting shadows over their neighbors

We must focus solely on building *affordable* housing on the dozens of empty and underused lots throughout our city, and finding solutions for retrofitting the many commercial spaces that sit vacant along all of our corridors...rather than destroying the place that your current, tax-paying residents call home.

Anne Weinberger
673 Peralta Ave, Berkeley

Late Correspondence

From: Brianna Morales <brianna@housingactioncoalition.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 3:52 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: HAC Letter of Support for Berkeley Missing Middle Ordinance
Attachments: 6.4.25 Middle Housing Ordinance in Berkeley HAC Support Letter.pdf

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Vincent and Members of the Planning Commission,

On behalf of the Housing Action Coalition, please find our attached letter of support for a bold and equitable Middle Housing Ordinance in Berkeley. We urge the Board to move forward with this ordinance as a first step towards creating more homes for the communities who need it most.

We appreciate your leadership and thoughtful consideration of this important policy, and we look forward to seeing Berkeley take meaningful steps toward more inclusive and abundant housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to reach out if any additional information is needed. Thank you.

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In support,

Brianna Morales | Pronouns: She/Her

Organizer | Housing Action Coalition
555 Montgomery St, San Francisco, CA 94111
Cell: (619) 535-6182 | Email: brianna@housingactioncoalition.org



To opt out of all HAC emails, respond to this email with "unsubscribe all".



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June 4, 2025

Berkeley Planning Commission
Planning and Development
1947 Center Street, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Chair Vincent and Members of the Planning Commission,

The Housing Action Coalition (HAC) is pleased to express our strong support for a bold and equitable Middle Housing Ordinance in Berkeley. As an organization committed to promoting the creation of well-designed, accessible, and affordable housing throughout California, we recognize the urgent need for meaningful zoning reform, and Berkeley has a historic opportunity to lead.

Berkeley is widely recognized as the birthplace of single-family zoning in the United States, a policy that was originally implemented to exclude communities of color from neighborhoods like Elmwood. That legacy has had devastating long-term consequences. The city's restrictive zoning and chronic underproduction of housing over the past several decades have contributed to skyrocketing housing costs and the displacement of tens of thousands of residents, including a sharp decline in Berkeley's Black population. As we confront this history, we must be leaders in creating equitable change, especially for the communities of color that have borne the brunt of past and ongoing exclusion.

The proposed Middle Housing Ordinance is a critical step in acknowledging and correcting this history. However, for the ordinance to be truly effective in addressing our regional housing shortage and supporting racial and economic equity, it must go further. Specifically:

Remove or significantly raise restrictive density caps – ideally to at least 90 dwelling units per acre – to ensure new middle housing projects can realistically be built. Arbitrary unit caps undermine the intent of the ordinance and risk perpetuating the same exclusionary outcomes we seek to undo.

Apply the ordinance consistently across all low-fire-risk neighborhoods, regardless of their historical zoning status. Differentiating between redlined and historically exclusive areas risks reinforcing segregation and deepening inequity. A fair housing approach requires that all neighborhoods contribute to solving our housing crisis.

We urge you to seize this moment. Berkeley has a chance to model what true zoning reform looks like: policy that not only legalizes more homes but does so in a way that centers equity,



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feasibility, and the lessons of the past. The Housing Action Coalition encourages you to pass a Middle Housing Ordinance that is as ambitious as the crisis we face and as inclusive as the future we want to build.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corey Smith".

Corey Smith, *Executive Director*
Housing Action Coalition (HAC)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ali Sapirman".

Ali Sapirman, *Advocacy & Policy Manager*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brianna Morales".

Brianna Morales, *Organizer*
Housing Action Coalition (HAC)

Late Correspondence

From: Micky Duxbury <mickydux612@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 3:13 PM
To: Berkeley Mayor's Office; All Council; planning@berkeley.ca.gov; OES; Tregub, Igor; Planning Commission
Cc: editor@dailycal.org; editors@berkeleyside.org; George Lippman; bnc50@berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com; Erin Diehm; Cindy Shamban; Summer Brenner; Kate Harrison; steve thomasberger; jackkurzweil@gmail.com; mcgeespauldingnbrsinaction-announce-unsubscribe@lists.riseup.net; Heike Helmer; merylsiegel@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Missing Middle Housing proposal is missing including input from impacted neighbors!

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Ishii, City Council members, Mr. Jordan Klein, and the Planning Commission,

I left the recent Planning Commission meeting feeling discouraged, surprised, and angry. I have been to several meetings whose purpose was allegedly to listen to residents in the areas that would be most impacted by the current Missing Middle Housing proposal. The vast majority of speakers at both meetings supported the need for additional housing in Berkeley, but were adamantly opposed to the significantly increased density, height, loss of setbacks, and the number of units that could be built on one lot under this plan. We are not a "vocal anti-housing group" as Councilmember Droste has commented. Most of those who spoke are long-time residents of Berkeley who have serious concerns about what this plan will mean for the future of our city.

In an April 30, 2025 article in 48 Hills, the Zelda Bronstein stated, *"By debate, I mean a sustained public conversation between proponents of the plan and its well-informed critics. To my knowledge, in the six years since the council approved Droste's proposal for a study of the Missing Middle concept in April 2019 no such exchange has occurred."*

In fact, the public hearings held focused on the number of units to be added *using existing zoning*, not the details of height, setbacks and open space *if zoning were changed* as it would be here. Contrary to how this plan is being portrayed, the day after the council provisionally approved Missing Middle Housing, Jessie Arreguin called the plan "one of the most ambitious rezoning efforts of any city in the United States."

It has been abundantly clear from every report that Missing Middle Housing will be market rate housing. There are no requirements for the units to be even semi-affordable and nothing to ensure that they will meet the needs of families, seniors or the disabled.

The plan would allow all parcels in Berkeley to be developed as quadruplexes with the addition of an ADU (accessory dwelling unit) and a Junior ADU, for a total of 6 units. Depending on how these units are counted, this may qualify the project for a density bonus that could actually yield as many as 8 units per parcel. There is no requirement for open space beyond five feet in the front and back yards, which is clearly insufficient to support biodiversity.

There are people in our planning department who seem dead set on proceeding with this plan in spite of the serious and well-considered objections by hundreds of people. Residents in the district that will be most impacted have consistently asked for the following: not so many units, not so high, not such minimal setbacks, consideration of neighbor's solar, the impact of the environment, and the impact of additional cars, etc.

Several people spoke about the possibility of differently configured housing that could be yards in common, assistance by UC Urban Planning, co-ops, and other not-for-profit endeavors that could involve a wider sector of the community. Any combination of these could be creative, sustainable, visionary, and POSSIBLE alternatives to the unchanging insistence by the head of planning department and the Planning Commission that we need to proceed with a plan that only a minority favor.

To the Planning Commission: Why even have a meeting if you are not going to budge when there's 30 + people saying we don't like this plan? Why are you so insistent on not making ANY changes to this plan when it is opposed by so many residents who live in the district that will be most impacted?

The absolute refusal of the head of the Planning Department and the Planning Commission to incorporate **ANY** changes in this plan will lead myself and many others to try to stop this at every turn in the future. You have not been listening, you have shown disrespect for the democratic process, you have proceeded as though there has been no major opposition, you have not incorporated **ANY** of the suggestions from over 100 residents who have spoken out thus far, you have not made **ANY** effort to be especially inclusive of organized groups of People of Color, and you have shown no vision about what alternative solutions might be that address the need for more housing density while also making Berkeley a more sustainable, affordable, and beautiful city.

Micky Duxbury

Late Correspondence

From: Shen, Alisa
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 7:41 PM
To: Commission
Cc: Messner, Faye; Horner, Justin
Subject: FW: Comment Regarding Proposed Re-Zoning Debate

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Internal

From: Reilly Brock <reilly.brock@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 5:22 PM
To: Shen, Alisa <AShen@berkeleyca.gov>
Cc: Berkeley Mayor's Office <Mayor@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: Comment Regarding Proposed Re-Zoning Debate

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
My name is Reilly and I'm 34 years old. I own a duplex on 8th Street.

I'm not able to attend the zoning meeting in person this evening, so I'm sending this message to voice my strong support for expanding multi-family zoning in West Berkeley.

I've lived in Berkeley since 1996, when I was six years old. My parents and sister went to grad school here. Now, as an adult and a homeowner, I see clearly that Berkeley cannot thrive in the 21st century — for my generation or future ones — without building more housing.

We can't keep hanging our hats on the progressive politics of the 1960s while leaving our zoning and property tax codes stuck in the 1970s.

Berkeley is rightfully proud of its education, its values, and its ability to evolve with the times. This is a city where we turn iron workshops into climbing gyms and bowling alleys into destination grocery stores. We're at our best when we adapt and build — not when we dig in our heels and retreat into exclusionary, suburban nostalgia.

We cannot address the housing affordability and homelessness crises facing the Bay Area without welcoming density into our urban core. Let's stop finding increasingly creative ways **not** to act. Instead, let's be creative about building, housing, and supporting one another.

I urge you to work together to do what's right — to make Berkeley more livable, sustainable, and welcoming for more people.

Thank you.

-Reilly