

**From:** [Jean Bedord](#)  
**To:** [HousingCommission](#); [Kerri Heusler](#)  
**Cc:** [Deborah L. Feng](#); [Benjamin Fu](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback on Housing Commission / City Work Plan - needs improvement  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:57:32 PM

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Housing Commissioners,

As I review the Westport senior housing proposal that was approved by the Planning Commission in May, and is now returning yet another go-round on July 14, I realized that the city has not included **strategies for senior housing** in either the Housing Commission Work Plan or the City Work Plan. As I listen to the city council deliberate on various ordinances, lack of consideration of the impact on senior housing is appalling. It's too expensive to build ADU's for an aging parent/grandparent. Zoning laws for single-family residences preclude multifamily homes, and there were ZERO approvals of multifamily homes in 2019.

There is no recognition of the need (nor apparently the expertise) for licensed independent living, assisted living, and memory units. The BMR manual has an inherent bias against seniors and the disabled by including employment in Cupertino in the point system - these populations aren't working but need housing. In fact, the BMR manual does not even mention senior housing, and it is also biased against the same populations. The current BMR manual explicitly states that "BMR units shall be dispersed throughout the residential project", but both funding sources and wrap-around services for these groups require adjacency of units.

Seniors occupy a significant number of residences in Cupertino - 6,595 households have a resident over the age 60+ according to the census. That's approximately 1/3 of the 20,181 households. Yet there are only 585 senior units available in the city. So seniors are stuck in their too-large family homes, occupied by 1-2 people, because of the lack of senior housing for downsizing contributing to the less than 2% housing turnover in 2019.

I urge you to incorporate **strategies for seniors into work plans for the Housing Commission, as well as the other commissions and City council.**

Warm regards,  
Jean Bedord  
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Connie L Cunningham

2020-July 9, Housing Commission Meeting, FY 2020-21 City Work Plan

Things that remain the same since our original input in January 2020

- Housing Element - Housing for all incomes and abilities
- Santa Clara County - Housing First approach

Changes since our original input in January 2020

- COVID-19
- Devastating Economic Downturn
- Black Live Matters protests and Cupertino City Council Resolution dated 2020-6-05 that, "demands that Black Lives Matter."
  - Reports that COVID-19 and the economic downturn have a disproportional impact on the Black Community and other minority communities.

Current Work Items as of January 2020

1. Affordable Housing Strategies - need to be examined to highlight these realities.
2. Engage with Philanthropic Orgs- need to move forward on this item with all due speed. Was a Mayor's priority last year.
3. Use City HSG grants for emergency financial assistance? Increase both BMR AHF and HSG How much? Yes, as much as possible!
4. Housing/transportation program for De Anza College Students
5. Homeless services and facilities; mobile hygiene services; add amenities to city buildings? Absolutely. Their needs are growing greatly during this pandemic.
6. Research Governor's 1.4B
7. Transportation to/from Service providers for Homeless