



P.O. Box 645 | Los Altos, CA 94023

March 20, 2020

Honorable Supervisor David Canepa
Honorable Supervisor Walter Slocum
Honorable Supervisor Don Horsley
Honorable Supervisor Carole Groom
Honorable Supervisor David Pine

Dear County Board of Supervisors:

We, the undersigned philanthropies write to urge the County Board of Supervisors to issue a county-wide eviction moratorium on behalf of all tenants, including those who live in student dorms and in units that are not under rental control, as well as small businesses, for the duration of the public health emergency. According to the County Counsel's office, such a moratorium is within the Board's legal authority. We therefore request that you act swiftly and act as broadly as possible to relieve the housing insecurity of low-income residents and small business owners and ameliorate unnecessary hardship for the poorest of our community during the current economic and public health crisis.

On Monday, March 16, 2020 Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-28-20, giving jurisdictions broad authority to enact eviction moratoria because of the public health crisis. That same day, the county issued a sweeping shelter in place order requiring businesses to close their doors and ordering people to stay home. As philanthropies who support the safety nets available for low-income communities in our county, we are all too aware of the hardships they experience. Too many people in our county struggle to make ends meet. They work multiple jobs, live paycheck to paycheck, and have no health insurance. Many also live in overcrowded situations. Many in this population perform part-time work or are part of the gig economy and will not receive compensation during the public health crisis. The closure of their workplaces will mean a loss of income that may result in their inability to pay their rents.

We and affiliates are working together to create a fund that fills the gaps in the needs arising from COVID-19. We therefore ask that the county to act immediately to forestall unnecessary hardships. Other neighboring communities have already passed such measures. These include San Francisco, San Jose, and Alameda County.

We are in the relatively early stage of COVID-19's trajectory, but it is spreading rapidly on a daily basis and we are likely to see the numbers of infected people along with deaths increase

exponentially in the following days and weeks to come. Thus, we request that you enact the broadest possible moratorium immediately.

Thank you for your consideration,

Karen Grove, President and Board Member, Grove Action Fund

Eva Grove, Board Member, Grove Action Fund

Fred Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer, The San Francisco Foundation

Erica Wood, Vice President of Community Impact, Silicon Valley Community Foundation