

# LAFAYETTE HOMEOWNERS COUNCIL

649 Los Palos Dr. Lafayette, Ca. 94549

www.lafayettehomeownerscouncil.org

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September 8, 2021

RE: GPAC Mission Statement Review/Revision

Dear Christine & Jim,

We respect the process and transparency of the Mission Statement Subcommittee to review and recommend a possible revision to the City of Lafayette Mission Statement. We understand that the charter that was put forth by the City Council states: *Recommended revision or restatement of the City's Mission Statement and a statement of the City's core values and vision.*

The Board of Directors of the Lafayette Homeowners Council agrees that the current Mission Statement still conveys its considerable value and should be retained in whole. In fact, when presented in a different way, it contains both the Vision and the Mission Statement.

To aid in the revision process we offer the following:

**Vision** – How we view our community:

*Lafayette was incorporated for the preservation and enhancement of the semi-rural character of the community which includes a small town perception.*

**Mission Statement** – How we operate:

*Lafayette shall endeavor to maintain the nature of the community by using a volunteer system of commissions and committees and a small staff whose number is consistent with the services provided. Limited services and a conservative fiscal policy are Lafayette's practice.*

We believe that it is critical to explicitly state that the City provides limited services and is supported by volunteer commissions and committees.

We also support the development of "values" or "Guiding Characteristics" that would be added to our Vision and Mission Statement. We support the incorporation of statements that clearly set forth what we value. These are the "stakes in the ground" that provide us with operating principles. Some of these stakes should be:

**Guiding Characteristics** – What we believe.

- All people are valued and worthy of respect
- Support for education and outstanding schools
- Adequate Infrastructure to support the safe and efficient functioning of the City, its residents, and its visitors
- We seek to maintain and encourage environmental stewardship

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It is important to remember that many other documents and processes of the City follow from our Mission Statement. The current *General Plan* and *Downtown Specific Plan* incorporate and expand on much of the content. From the *General Plan*, page 1 of the Introduction section. I've included its wording below as reference:

#### Guiding Principles

- Preserve and enhance the character of Lafayette as a semi-rural community
- Create and maintain a strong sense of community in Lafayette
- Protect the natural and scenic quality of our surrounding hillsides and ridgelines, creek areas, trees, and other vegetation
- Encourage the involvement of citizens volunteers in land use and policy planning

Several years ago, the community spent countless hours gathering ideas and working together to develop a *Downtown Strategic Plan (DSP)*. The Vision Statement for the *DSP* contains a vision for our downtown core area. This could be referenced in our overall City Mission Statement but should not be incorporated or repeated in the statement. I've included the *DSP* Vision Statement below as reference:

*Create a downtown with small town character and a sustainable quality of life that includes a central core, pedestrian relationships between services, and is a place where residents can congregate, shop, enjoy cultural activities, conduct their civic affairs, and savor the beauty and ambience of this small town.*

*Encourage the evolution of a distinctive Lafayette character that is informal with variations in architectural styles, massing, and setbacks while maintaining scenic views to surrounding hills and maximizing the enjoyment of its natural environment.*

*Reinforce downtown as the city's center for business, civic and cultural activities with land use, circulation and design policies that retain the focus of the downtown as a retail center and multifamily residential neighborhood.*

*Encourage economic activity beneficial to the community and support, enhance and maintain the community*

From the responses of the recent survey, a clear preference is shown for the maintenance and enhancement of our current semi-rural community with safety and open space a priority. We understand that there are other stakeholders in the community with interests as to how Lafayette changes going forward. But we ask that you remember and reflect upon the reasons that our residents moved here and the features of our community that are most prized.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lafayette Homeowners Council,



William Bucher, President