

Proclamation

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MONTH – MAY 2026

WHEREAS, housing affordability in San Mateo County and the greater Bay Area is a critical issue; and

WHEREAS, a 2025 San Mateo County Affordable Housing Needs Report prepared by California Housing Partnership cites that approximately 23,000 low-income renter households in San Mateo County do not have access to an affordable home; and

WHEREAS, median rent in California has increased 44% since 2000 while median renter household income has only increased 11%; and

WHEREAS, adequate housing opportunities for people at all income levels enhance community life and vitality by providing a stable living environment, which is important for both personal and communal growth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park continues to prioritize the production of new affordable housing development as well as the preservation and rehabilitation of existing affordable homes in our community to meet the needs of our residents and region; and

WHEREAS, Menlo Park has taken meaningful actions towards the preservation and production of affordable housing, including the commitment of over \$6.6 million from the City's Below Market Rate Housing (BMR) Fund for various affordable housing activities and participation in a multi-city affordable housing nexus study, which will evaluate the impact of new development on the need for affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, Menlo Park is dedicated to advancing the preparation and implementation of an anti-displacement strategy, a key program in the Housing Element and Environmental Justice Element, to ensure that community members can stay in their homes and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, this Affordable Housing Month, City staff invite all residents and community members to attend the Housing and Neighborhood Resource Fair on Saturday May 16 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the Belle Haven Community Campus; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Betsy Nash, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and City, do hereby proclaim and celebrate May 2026 as Affordable Housing Month in Menlo Park.

Betsy Nash, Mayor
May 12, 2026