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Austin Women in Housing

Executive Director
Nora Linares-Moeller



July 19, 2023

Dear Mayor, Austin City Council Members and Staff,

HousingWorks emphatically endorses adoption of Item 126 on the July 20, 2023 Austin City Council agenda and thanks Council Member Pool and the co-sponsors for proposing the resolution initiating amendments to the Land Development Code to modify site development regulations, including minimum lot size and maximum number of dwelling units, applicable to development on lots with single-family zoning.

We believe the changes proposed through the Home Options for Middle-income Empowerment (HOME) initiative possess great potential for increasing access to attainable housing opportunities for households at a range of income levels and for increasing housing opportunities in high opportunity areas. Increasingly, first time homebuyers and those seeking a home that is a better fit for their household needs are finding it difficult to afford housing in Austin. Expanding attainable home ownership throughout Austin can play a key role in supporting households of all ages and types, expanding diverse housing opportunities for families, and helping build intergenerational wealth.

As always, feel free to contact us if you have any questions about this letter. You can contact me at nora@housingworksaustin.org.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nora Linares-Moeller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nora" being the most prominent.

Nora Linares-Moeller
Executive Director

From: noreply@coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov <noreply@coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 12:43 PM
To: District 7 <District7@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Item 126

This message is from Selena Xie. [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Watson and Council Members:

Thank you for bringing item 126 to Council. I manage our Relief Fund and can tell you that we had one cadet who slept in his car while trying to find something he could afford and we have had to help cover rent when medics are injured and unable to work the overtime needed to make rent. I am hoping that one way we can help our medics is through creating smaller housing to help them live in Austin which also creates more buy in and creates retention because they do not look for work that is closer to where they can afford to live if they can only afford to live in Killeen or San Marcos.

I really do thank you for all your work and know that this issue is much more complicated than I know, but I appreciate all efforts to create more housing options for all our workers.

Sincerely,
Selena Xie

President, Austin EMS Association

Street address: 4710 Heflin Ln

Council District: 1

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: noreply@coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov <noreply@coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 12:29 PM
To: District 7 <District7@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Writing in support of item 126

This message is from Cassandra Lydon. [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Watson and Council Members:

We have a lot of medics who move to Austin for the job. Some classes are almost 80% from outside of Austin. We hear a lot of medics have a difficult time finding affordable housing in or near the city when they move to Austin. Please support item 126 on Thursday's council agenda that will help create smaller, more attainable homes so that they might be able to live in the community that they serve and can possibly think about building a life here so that they might be able to stay and create families or otherwise sustain their future.

Please support item 126 as a pathway to have smaller starter homes that could give lower middle income medics here and attract other recruits to make a home here in a city we can all afford.

On another note, outside of my concern for my newer and future coworkers, I want to see item 126 pass personally. I am one of the lucky few medics who own a home in city limits (District 8). Part of my draw to this home when I bought it was the hope to be able to build an ADU for my mother, who at 77 is retired and on a fixed income. Unfortunately due to restrictive zoning, I am unable to do so currently. I sincerely hope item 126 passes so that I can provide my mother with an affordable place to live also.

Sincerely,

Cassandra (Cassi) Lydon
Board Member for Austin EMS Association and District 8 resident

Street address: 7307 Canteen Cir.

Council District: 8

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members

From: noreply@coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov <noreply@coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 1:34 PM
To: District 7 <District7@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Vote Yes on Item 126

This message is from Jeremy Hendricks. [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Watson and Council Members:

Please support item 126 on Thursday's council agenda that will help create smaller, more attainable houses so that workers in construction and other middle-income earners can afford to buy a home here in Austin.

It's becoming impossible to find a starter home for families wanting to invest in Austin, and the high rents and cost of living are pushing us farther out to the suburbs. Without a chance to invest in something smaller that is within our budgets, all of Austin's neighborhoods are becoming more exclusive and out of reach for regular folks.

Our members and all construction workers are especially affected by the high cost of housing, which is forcing the very workforce that builds our city to live far outside of town. Please support item 126 to provide opportunities for those of us caught in the middle. We need to work harder to become a city we can all afford again.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Hendricks
LIUNA Southwest Laborers District Council
LIUNA Local 1095

Street address: 10008 Hampshire Drive, Austin, 78753

Council District: 4

Note: A copy of this email was sent to all Council Members