

To: Fort Bragg City Council

From: Geri Morisky-Ross, P. O. Box 1605, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Re: **Danco Project 2 alternative – Letter of Support**

Date: November 12, 2018

Dear Council Members,

I am asking the Council to please give your full support to Danco's Project 2 alternative.

The City of Fort Bragg has the rare opportunity to gain funding and build 82 new homes -- by a quality builder with an excellent reputation for constructing and managing affordable work force, elder and family housing, as well as supportive housing for people with disabilities.

The housing crisis in our community is severe, and too many of our needed work force -- from hospital employees, teachers, maintenance, landscaping and other vital service personnel -- leave the area, making it harder for employers to fill the necessary positions. Our young people and families are faced with the minimum wage-no benefit jobs available in our area. Buying a home or affording the ever-skyrocketing rents is not possible on non-living wages.

Far too many of our responsible elders -- who contributed to our community for years -- are being forced into homelessness by AirBnB/vacation rental conversions, or sale of the rental. On senior fixed incomes, they cannot re-enter the current housing market.

**While there will be the usual opposition to supportive and affordable housing, wherever it is proposed, we cannot allow a small group of people to block the urgent needs of the majority of our community: the Danco Project 2 is one of the most viable and urgent paths to solving a small portion of our housing crisis -- *AND the project's scope and design allows us to access the necessary funding which is often the other major roadblock.***

24 of the 82 homes will have permanent supportive housing. Nationwide research shows that those with disabilities and former homeless persons with supportive services stay and live a more stable and productive life, **improving their mental-physical health -- and drastically reducing the heavy costs to the community of emergency and continual corrective care.**

**The 82 new homes provided by Danco Project 2 is a necessary, exciting and hopeful start. Please give this proposal your positive support as a City Council that truly represents and responds to the needs of the majority of its citizens.**

Respectfully submitted, Geri A. Morisky-Ross

Fort Bragg City Council  
416 N Franklin St  
Fort Bragg CA

Johanna Jensen  
661 N Harold St  
Fort Bragg CA

November 12, 2018

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to support Danco's Project 2 alternative without modification.

Fort Bragg is fortunate to be offered this unique opportunity. I believe their project will:

- Give hope to 55 low-income seniors, families and individuals who are just a missed paycheck or major expense away from homelessness.
- Strengthen our economy as businesses and agencies are able to hire more people knowing there are 28 more workforce-priced homes.
- Let you respond to residents' pressure to address Fort Bragg's homeless population by offering 24 homes with permanent supportive housing.

As you debate this proposal, I hope you will focus on legitimate concerns based on the design, safety or building capacity, rather than Not-In-My-Back-Yard (NIMBY) opposition to supportive housing.

Supportive housing opposition is often based on stereotypes about a home's intended residents. NIMBY opposition exacerbates stigmas by fueling misconceptions and prejudice; please do not let this opposition be injected into your political process because as you know, once triggered they can be difficult to quell.

Instead, remember that a large body of research shows that the vast majority of people who live in supportive housing are able to stay stably housed in the community. And, the research supports four main conclusions:

- Supportive housing helps people with disabilities live stably in the community.
- People with disabilities in supportive housing reduce their use of costly systems, especially emergency health care and corrections.
- Supportive housing can help people with disabilities receive more appropriate health care and may improve their health.
- People in other groups, including seniors trying to stay in the community as they age and families trying to keep their children out of foster care, likely also benefit from supportive housing.

82 new homes, provided by Danco, a developer with a record of excellence, deserves nothing less than your enthusiastic support.

Sincerely,

Johanna Jensen