Gray Panthers Santa Barbara Network



July 31, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:



As a policy, the Gray Panthers Santa Barbara Network supports housing options that are accessible, affordable and safe for all regardless of gender, health status, access needs, race or ethnicity or economic circumstance.

We ask you to prioritize older adults as a specific goal in your Housing Element planning.

* Define “senior housing” more clearly to include requirements for accessibility and access to services.
* Zone for more senior housing options to meet senior needs as they progress through the senior housing care continuum.
* Expand “by right” zones in which senior housing with services is permitted.
* In commercial zones, expand permitted uses for licensed residential care, with conditional use permits for independent living as a “by right” use.
* Provide regulatory incentives for builders by adding a regulatory “fast track” incentive for builders on senior housing projects.
* Assure needed senior housing is located appropriately to transportation options.

Older Adults need housing that is accessible and built according to ADA and applicable

housing legislation/regulations & specifications. Countywide, 31% aged 60 and over identify as having a disability.

The Gray Panthers Santa Barbara Network was incorporated as a nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation in 2020. Our membership has grown steadily since then and includes residents from all parts of Santa Barbara County. Our mission is to promote social and economic justice and oppose discrimination of all types.

Sincerely,

Richard Solomon

Chair