

## Levesque, Jennifer

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**From:** Demitra <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2021 11:09 AM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Agenda Item J.1

To Whom it May Concern,

I have lived and worked in Merced for many years and I would like to strongly recommend that the city council adopt and quickly implement policies regarding affordable housing - including inclusionary zoning and equitable development practices and guidelines across the board. If this city is truly on the rise, it should be so for all its citizens, not just those living in North Merced or those lucky enough to afford newly renovated downtown spaces previously occupied by low-income residents.

To deny Mercedians your commitment to affordable housing is to deny them safety, security and peace of mind. To side with wealthy developers under the guise of the "free market" is to consciously and purposefully ignore the critical needs of those you serve who are already greatly impacted by rising housing costs, fewer housing options and decades of inequitable housing practices. To do nothing is to pretend that this city is not in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. I, like many others before me, am asking you to take action and approve policies that will benefit the working families of Merced, keep them in stable, affordable, long-term housing and improve the lives of those families for generations to come.

I look forward to seeing the good work that comes out of these fair housing policies in the future.

Best,  
Demitra Borrero

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