

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Nichole Trujillo Rice <nrice@ufcw8.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 07, 2021 12:59 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Public Comment on Agenda Item J.1

Dear Mayor Serratto and the Merced City council,

My name is Nichole Rice and I am legislative and political director for the UFCW Local 8, representing 35,000 members in Northern California, including many grocery retail and food manufacturing workers in Merced county. I'm writing today to express my support, and that of UFCW, Local 8, for the staff recommendations included in item J.1, the Report on Pro-Housing Policies, Housing Production, and Affordable Housing. Our members are essential workers who have been on the front lines maintaining the food supply their whole careers and throughout the ongoing pandemic.

Increasing home prices and diminishing home supply has left quality housing out of reach for many, and homeownership even more challenging. These are workers with good union jobs that have the wages and benefits that should be putting them on a path to home ownership, but in many cases it is not.

That is why I'm deeply grateful for the work you are doing in the city of Merced to help improve opportunities for our members and others to find quality housing and ultimately progress to homeownership. Your leadership in this open and transparent process, including the policy work staff has done, has led to a road map to housing in Merced that will change the lives of many of our members.

I encourage you to direct staff to implement the pro-housing policies they are presenting this evening and to continue to center the needs of working people in the city of Merced's planning process. We look forward to continuing to support these efforts on behalf of our members and the entire Merced community.

Sincerely,

Nichole Trujillo Rice
Political and Legislative Director
UFCW 8-GS
[1930 9th Street, Suite 216](#)
[Sacramento, CA 95811](#)

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of City of Merced -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]