



March 2, 2020

**City of Berkeley Planning Commission
1947 Center Street
Berkeley, CA 94704**

Re: IN SUPPORT OF the elimination of minimum residential parking requirements

Dear Members of the City of Berkeley Planning Commission:

On behalf of the Cal Berkeley Democrats we would like to express our support for the proposal to both eliminate the minimum residential parking requirements for all new housing projects and to implement a parking maximum on new housing projects in close proximity to public transportation.

The current regulations concerning the provision of parking for residential units limits the ability of developers to provide a large quantity of dwellings to students, most of whom have no car and therefore have no use for a parking spot. Given the pedestrian-oriented nature of the University and the City of Berkeley at large, the continuation of minimum residential parking requirements does little to serve the needs of Berkeley residents and only serves as an inefficient, demand-insensitive use of City real estate. Furthermore, we believe that the City should also prioritize the use of public transit options including buses and trains in an effort to decrease vehicle use in the City and reduce the City's climate footprint. The implementation of a parking maximum of no more than 0.5 spaces per unit with a ¼ mile of transit hubs achieves both goals and frees up real estate for much-needed residential units.

The proposal in front of the Planning Commission would strengthen the City's commitment to providing affordable housing for all of Berkeley's residents. For this reason, Cal Berkeley Democrats strongly supports both of the aforementioned items. We appreciate your consideration of our views and encourage you to pass this proposal.

Sincerely,

Sarah Abdeshahian, President
Timothy Etter, Finance Director
Kentaurus Robinson, Operations Director
Samantha Warren, Political Director
Elizabeth Grubb, Outreach Director
Meher Mann, Smart Ass Editor-In-Chief