Correspondence

From: Caephren McKenna <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 2:40 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Support for Berkeley taking bold action to allow more housing along its commercial corridors

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Planning Commissioners,

Dear Planning Commissioners,

We are writing to strongly support the City Council's direction to set seven-story base zoning for North Shattuck, College, and Solano Avenues. We commend Council for taking a real stand on housing and urge you to fully implement this vision. We support at least seven stories' base zoning and ask you not to water down the proposal with setbacks, stepdowns, and other requirements that would reduce the number of homes that could get built on any parcel. Many of these parcels are oddly shaped or present other obstacles to development, so they need whatever flexibility we can provide.

Seven-story zoning could contribute meaningful amounts of housing to address affordability and create mixed-income neighborhoods where teachers, service workers, young families, and long-time residents can live. Seven stories is transit-appropriate for corridors with AC Transit service and is standard in successful transit-oriented neighborhoods throughout the Bay Area.

Seven-story base zoning will also support local businesses with more foot traffic, reduce car dependency to support our climate commitments, and open Berkeley's opportunity-rich neighborhoods to everyone. We have a legal and a moral duty to affirmatively further fair housing.

We urge you to support the Council's clear direction without reduction or compromise. What's at stake is having people in our commercial districts to keep our businesses alive and thriving.

Respectfully,
[Your name]
[Optional: Your council district]

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