

## Limited number of affordable homes now available at Woodbury Highlands



Photo courtesy Hello Housing webpage

Six BMR homes are available at Woodbury Highlands.

By Pippa Fisher

The chance to apply for a new below market rate home in Woodbury Highlands is being offered now but the current pre-application period is set to close soon.

Woodbury Highlands, the 99-unit luxury condominium complex located just west of the downtown area near the reservoir built by Davidon Homes is offering 15% of the homes to income-restricted households. Six units are available now with an additional nine homes to be released in 2022 and 2023 for a total of 15 BMR homes in this development.

Program Manager Zoe McGeary for Hello Housing, the nonprofit company working with the city to manage the process, presented the format for applications to the city council at the Jan. 11 meeting.

McGeary explained that six brand new two- and three-bedroom homes are available for sale this year to be affordable to households of between two and seven people at 50% and 120% of area median income, with 3% of the purchase price as a down payment. She said there are no preference points required, such as already living in Lafayette.

The pre-application phase will close on Jan. 25, and if eligible, applicants will be placed in a lottery for a random drawing to get a lottery ranking. McGeary expects to receive hundreds of applications, telling the council at the meeting that Hello Housing has already received around 400 since Jan. 4 when pre-application opened.

More information can be found on the Hello Housing website [www.hellohousing.org/woodburyhighlands/](http://www.hellohousing.org/woodburyhighlands/)

## Lafayette mayor addresses concerns on overpass protest tensions



Trump supporters on the overpass Jan. 15. Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

Prompted by reports of violence and intimidation on the El Curtola overpass, which has been the scene of pro-Trump protests for several months, Lafayette Mayor Susan Candell released a statement expressing concern, and reassurance that police will continue to monitor the area during the protests and will increase patrols if necessary.

Several members of the public spoke out at the Jan. 11 city council meeting, alleging incidents of harassment and physical attacks, as well as safety concerns over the potential for the large flags hanging over the busy freeway to fall.

"I wish to address some of the concerns raised over reported conduct on the overpass," said Candell in the statement, released by the city Jan. 14. "Along with our city manager, city attorney, and police chief, I have carefully reviewed the range of lawful responses that we, as a city, can implement concerning events on the El Curtola overpass. I can say with full confidence that the response by our police department has been appropriate and timely. When violations of the law have been reported, including allegations of assault, the police department has made arrests and our judicial

system is processing these matters."

Noting that peaceful forms of protest in public spaces are a bedrock of democracy, Candell said that First Amendment rights must be upheld for everyone, both those living in Lafayette and those who come to Lafayette to express their views.

Addressing calls for the overpass to be closed, Candell said, "Under the law, however, we cannot do this and prohibit lawful protests. Likewise, the city cannot limit access to the overpass to only residents, as has been suggested. All members of the public, no matter where they live, have the right to peacefully assemble on the overpass. If the City of Lafayette were to hinder those rights, it could expose the city to significant legal challenges and, perhaps, make Lafayette a focal point for future protests."

Candell said the city, working with the police will continue to monitor events and will make arrests should any law be violated.

"Let us all do our part to uphold the First Amendment and to deescalate a sensitive situation," said Candell, closing out the statement. "I know that nerves are frayed. But we must come together to ensure that our democracy functions peacefully and respectfully."



### Lafayette Public Meetings

#### City Council

Regular Meeting  
Monday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

#### Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

#### Design Review

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m. Zoom  
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

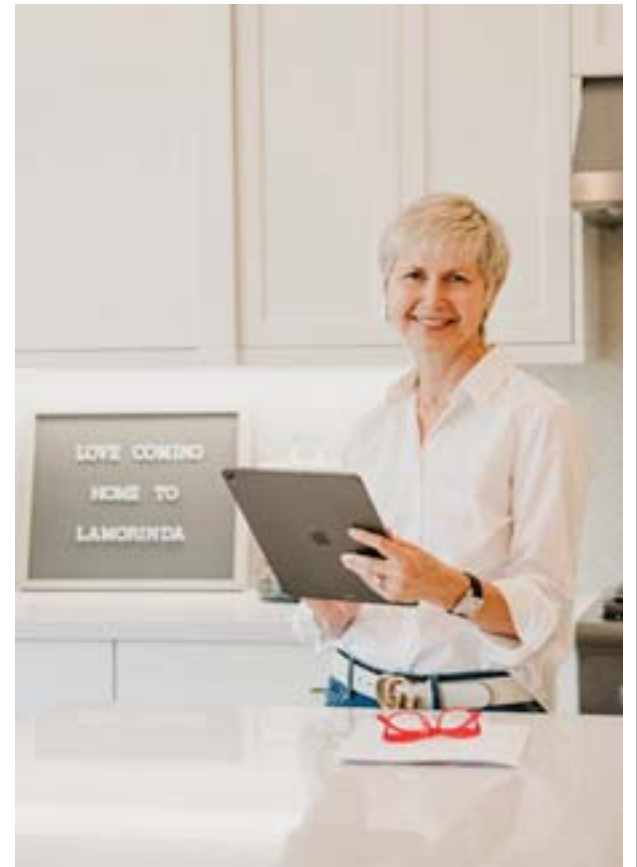
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