

LLA talk, Item 8.2, high-rise discounts. [6/18/24]

Hi, I'm Larry Ames, speaking on behalf of the San José Parks & Rec Commission.

As we said in our letter, we ask you to **reject** both point **(c)** – the discount to the Downtown high-rise Park Fee, and point **(d)** – to study extending the discount program beyond Downtown and to low- and mid-rise housing.

Housing and Parks are **both** important parts of the city. We **can't** have a city without housing, but also we **won't** have a thriving and attractive city without quality parks.

The way to **encourage** downtown residential development is to make downtown living **more attractive** – with quality nearby parks!

The city's park fees are **minor** compared to the developer's high cost of land, materials, and the cost of borrowed money, but the park fees are **critical** for the city's parks – providing a major portion of the funds that **build** and **maintain** our parks.

In many parts of the city, often the **only** way a park can be **repaired** or **enhanced** is if there's nearby development that will provide park fees.

The more the park fees are **discounted**, the more our parks are **diminished**.

Keep San José an attractive and vibrant city by supporting our parks!