



## CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

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June 25, 2021

The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2187  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1466—RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY COVENANTS

Dear Chair Umberg:

On behalf of the City of Mountain View, I am writing to express our City's support for Assembly Bill 1466 (AB 1466, McCarty), which would identify and remove historic documents that include unlawfully discriminatory covenants from public records.

Racial segregation and red-lining have shaped where people live and, by extension, what opportunities people can access. Historically, private restrictive covenants recorded on the title of real property were used throughout California to prevent the sale of property to racial and ethnic minorities. Since 1948, racially restrictive covenants have been illegal to enforce. Still in many cases, the discriminatory language remains in recorded documents as part of the legal chain of title on real property in communities like the City of Mountain View and across California, often without homeowners realizing it.

Existing law requires title companies and county recorders to provide notice that racially restrictive covenants, along with other restrictive covenants that would violate the Fair Employment and Housing Act, permit property owners to record a Restrictive Covenant Modification form to remove illegal restrictions. AB 1466 would accelerate the process of removing illegal restrictions from public record by requiring title companies to research property titles specifically for illegal covenants to remove and authorize any party involved to record a Restrictive Covenant Modification, thereby removing illegal restrictions.

The City of Mountain View is committed to racial equity and justice as we strive to create a welcoming and inclusive community for all. AB 1466 would make it easier to remove illegal and offensive restrictions from the property title and accelerate the process of

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purging discriminatory language from California's public records – removing illegal and restrictive offensive covenants from property titles and public records is a worthwhile goal and will help eliminate reminders of California's history of racial hostility and exclusion towards racial and ethnic minorities.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,



Ellen Kamei  
Mayor

EK/CG/1/MGR  
001-06-25-21L

cc: Honorable Josh Becker, California State Senate

Honorable Marc Berman, California State Assembly

Honorable Kevin McCarty, California State Assembly

Honorable David Chiu, California State Assembly

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City Council

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