

RECEIVED

MAY 20 2021



City of Watsonville
Community Development Dept

Ms. Anna Kammer
Planning Commission Chair
City of Watsonville Planning Commission
250 Main Street
Watsonville, California 95076

May 17, 2021

Subject: Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay, Business License Application
(Application No. 1360)

Dear Ms. Kammer,

On behalf of our Board, Staff, and Volunteers, I would like to introduce you to Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay. We have been building affordable homes in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties for the past thirty-two years. To date, we have completed over fifty-five homes and have assisted over sixty low income families find homes. *Ten of these homes have been built in Watsonville, with the first one in 1999.* We fund our projects through individual and corporate donations, grants, active fund-raising and from the sales from our two ReStores.

Our ReStores are retail stores (not to be confused with thrift or second-hand stores) which accept donations of new and gently used construction materials, furniture, appliances and household items. We have received donations of new doors, windows, flooring, lumber, shower stalls, faucets to name a few of the newer building materials, which are then purchased at a discount by DIY homeowners or contractors.

The ReStores serve three main purposes. One, through donations, they allow us to raise money which we use for building affordable homes in the community; Second, through our flexible work schedule, they provide employment to members of our community as well as an opportunity for others to volunteer; and Third, they reduce the amount of materials going into landfill and allow many gently used items to provide benefit to a second or third owner, prolonging the useful life. In 2020 the Santa Cruz ReStore diverted over 450 tons of reusable goods from the landfill.

We are planning on relocating our Santa Cruz ReStore to 555 Main Street, Watsonville. We look forward to serving a major part of our clientele living in Watsonville and the surrounding area; contribute to the Watsonville tax base; and address global warming issues by recycling useable materials, furniture, and clothing (products many of our Watsonville customers need). In addition, it is a place where many of our new homebuyers may work to receive volunteering hours required to supplement the cost of their new Habitat for Humanity home.

In June, our Business License Application will be on your Agenda, and we are encouraging you to approve it. We believe Habitat Humanity, Monterey Bay will continue to provide a significant residential and economic contribution to the quality of life to the Monterey Bay

Habitat for Humanity, Monterey Bay is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization
Tax I.D. Number 77-0206356



area, more specifically now, in the City of Watsonville.

The Board and I also wish to thank the City again for awarding us our next building site, 36 Airport Road, Watsonville. When we start to build, please join us, invite your staff, family, and friends as volunteers and help us build affordable housing and in keeping working class families in Watsonville.

I look forward to meeting each of you. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,
Ron Buswell
Chairman of the Board
rnbuswell@yahoo.com

Satish Rishi 
CEO
satish@habitatmontereybay.org
c: 512 632 4256

Cc: Jimmy Dutra, Mayor
Matt Huffaker, City Manager
Suzi Merriam, Community Development Director
Planning Commissioners
City Council Members

*We look forward to
your support. Please
call if you have any
questions. S.*



Deborah Muniz <deborah.muniz@cityofwatsonville.org>

[CDD] LETTER TO PLANNING COMMISSION RE: JUNE 1, 2021 MEETING

5 messages

George Ow <georgeowjr@gmail.com>

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 12:41 AM

To: cdd@cityofwatsonville.org, cityclerk@cityofwatsonville.org

May 24, 2021

TO: WATSONVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION. PLEASE ALSO COPY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, CITY MANAGER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER AND APPROPRIATE PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF. THANK YOU. GEORGE OW. AND CAN YOU PLEASE LET ME KNOW THAT THIS CAN BE DONE, OR IF I SHOULD MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS? THANK YOU.

Re: Support for the Habitat of Humanity Restore.

Dear Watsonville Planning Commission

The Habitat for Humanity Restore is a one-of-a-kind retail store that offers new and used products for construction and remodeling; plus a range of household items and commercial items at unbeatable prices. The Restore is now operating successfully on the extreme westside of Santa Cruz and attracts a steady flow of customers from throughout the entire region that come frequently to find unique products that change daily. The store and concept is proven and will be successful in Downtown Watsonville. It will fill the empty former Jump N Around space at 555 Main Street and bring good economic energy to the neighborhood. The funds earned are used to build homes in a miraculous way for people by Habitat to Humanity, another proven program.

Building, owning and managing retail buildings is my area of expertise and the Habitat for Humanity Restore will be good for our 555 Main Street building, the surrounding areas of Main Street and bring more economic activity to Watsonville as a whole.

My family is very bullish on Watsonville. We are invested in properties throughout the City. We build from the ground up. We take empty buildings and fill them. We manage all of our buildings and we are here for the long run. We have various commercial properties in Watsonville and throughout the county. Quality retail tenants are hard to find due to the continued surge of online buying displacing brick and mortar stores and the long-term disruption of the COVID Pandemic. We feel that the Habitat for Humanity Restore is a strong and one of a kind business that will fill a building that has been empty for over a year, despite our vigorous efforts to fill it. It will be a strong draw for Downtown Watsonville.

We also enjoy supporting nonprofit agencies and taking a lead role in public projects; like the giant, Kathleen Crocetti vision using the art of internationally renowned native son and Watsonville High graduate, Juan Fuentes, in a series of stunning mosaic tile murals on the City Hall Parking Lot. My 50 years of heading Ow Family Properties has shown me that working together to improve the entire community is the best way. You may note that the section called "Hermanita," is going up right now, facing Rodriguez Street—which joins the sixty feet high strawberry picker-Mayan Warrior and apple picker images around the corner. The work completed represents 18 months of a five year project; completed efficiently, on time, safe and within COVID Pandemic safety rules. This giant Watsonville Brilliance mural complex will join existing DOWNTOWN art work and attract others—and in years to come, will make Watsonville the "Barcelona of America." That's the audacious goal, one that complements the plan for redoing Downtown Watsonville and adds value to all Downtown properties.

5/25/2021

City of Watsonville Mail - [CDD] LETTER TO PLANNING COMMISSION RE: JUNE 1, 2021 MEETING

Please approve The Habitat for Humanity Restore for 555 Main Street so that they can move from Santa Cruz and open as soon as possible.

Thank you

George Ow, Jr.
203 Highland Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA, 95060
georgeowjr@gmail.com
cell: 831-247-4748



Deborah Muniz <deborah.muniz@cityofwatsonville.org>

Fwd: LETTER TO PLANNING COMMISSION - 6/21/21 MEETING - PLEASE APPROVE RESTORE AT 555 MAIN STREET

2 messages

Sarah Wikle <sarah.wikle@cityofwatsonville.org>

Wed, May 26, 2021 at 12:20 PM

To: Deborah Muniz <deborah.muniz@cityofwatsonville.org>, Suzi Merriam <suzi.merriam@cityofwatsonville.org>

Hi Deborah and Suzi,

Wanted to forward this letter I received and was emailed to the planning commission that was sent over by Ben Ow.

-Sarah

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Benjamin Ow** <benjaminmow@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 25, 2021 at 10:07 AM

Subject: LETTER TO PLANNING COMMISSION - 6/21/21 MEETING - PLEASE APPROVE RESTORE AT 555 MAIN STREET

To: <cityclerk@cityofwatsonville.org>, Suzi Merriam <suzi.merriam@cityofwatsonville.org>, Sarah Wikle <sarah.wikle@cityofwatsonville.org>, <dodgeforwatsonville@gmail.com>, <cyclingmomcole@gmail.com>, <jveitcholson@gmail.com>, <veronicadorantespulido@gmail.com>, <annakso@att.net>, <lucyrojas1974@gmail.com>, <ed.acosta@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Andrew Ow <andrew.m.ow@outlook.com>, George Ow <georgeowjr@gmail.com>, William Ow <williamgeorgeow@gmail.com>

May 17, 2021

Watsonville Planning Commission

Dear Watsonville Planning Commission,

We are writing to respectfully request that you vote to approve Habitat for Humanity's application for a use permit so it can operate a Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 555 Main Street in Watsonville. If you have never been to a Habitat Restore, we encourage you to visit the location in Santa Cruz; the store is clean, attractive, and hip. The Habitat Restore offers high-quality, brand new and lightly used goods for sale at unbeatable prices. Habitat Restores draw customers from all over the region due to the quality products they sell at unbelievable prices. My family members are proud that we have purchased appliances and furnishings from ReStore's that we have in our homes and business offices. The Habitat ReStore at 555 Main Street will draw new customers to Watsonville from the entire region and will help activate a space that has been vacant for more than a year. This is exactly the type of viable and successful business we need to actively support in order to help revitalize the downtown area.

As you likely know, Habitat for Humanity helps provide affordable housing and Watsonville badly needs more affordable housing. What you may not know is that Habitat for Humanity intends to expand its operations in Watsonville and that it gets vital funding from its ReStore locations. Voting to approve the use permit for the ReStore location at 555 Main Street will allow a vibrant new business to activate Main street and eliminate another long term vacancy, provide jobs to the community, allow local residents and businesses to buy quality second-hand items (reducing environmental impacts versus buying new items), and support an important local non-profit that is helping to alleviate some of the worst crises facing Watsonville and our region (unaffordable housing and housing insecurity).

Voting against the use permit application would be bad for the City. It would contribute to the emptying out of Downtown Watsonville, negatively impact an important local non-profit company whose mission is to provide affordable housing to the community. We all want Downtown Watsonville to be vibrant and fun and safe. It will not be any of those things if it's full of empty buildings, leading to neglect and criminal activity.

Please vote to approve a use permit for Habitat for Humanity's ReStore location at 555 Main Street in Watsonville. Thank you for your consideration and your service to our great community.

Best regards,

Benjamin Ow, on behalf of the Ow Family, owner of 555 Main Street, Watsonville

--

Benjamin Ow | Principal

Ow Family Properties | 1601 41st Avenue #202 | Capitola | CA 95010

T 831.247.1175 | F 831.426.5772 | benjamin@owcommercial.com | www.owcommercial.com

--

Sarah Wikle

Assistant Planner

Community Development Department | City of Watsonville

sarah.wikle@cityofwatsonville.org

(831) 768-3073

Front Counter Hours: 8am-12pm M-F

Deborah Muniz <deborah.muniz@cityofwatsonville.org>
To: Sarah Wikle <sarah.wikle@cityofwatsonville.org>
Cc: Suzi Merriam <suzi.merriam@cityofwatsonville.org>

Wed, May 26, 2021 at 12:36 PM

Received, thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Deborah Muniz, Executive Assistant

City of Watsonville/Community Development Dept.

250 Main St., Watsonville, CA 95076

Phone: 831-768-3079/ FAX: 831-728-6154

E-mail: deborah.muniz@cityofwatsonville.org



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair

Tricia Wynne
Public Policy Analyst / Attorney

Vice Chairs

Laurie Negro
Betty Burgers Owner

Andrea Carlos Willy
Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Michele Bassi
Santa Cruz County Bank

Treasurer

Rick Weiss
Bay Federal Credit Union

Corporate Secretary

Susan Lovegren
HR Executive & Advisor

Past Board Chair

Bob Norton
Community Member

Members

David Amaral
UCSC

Paul Carlson
Poly

Kristin Fabos
Cabrillo College

Joy Flynn
Boehringer Ingelheim

Lyza Gianelli
Martinelli's

Matt Huffaker
City of Watsonville

Lori Kletzer
UCSC

Alexander Pedersen
Cabrillo College

June Ponce
Sun Valley Berries, LLC

ADVISORY BOARD

Bruce McPherson, Chair

Jeremy Lezin, Vice Chair

Jess Brown

Diane Cooley

Rebecca Garcia

Ken Kannappan

Edward J. Kelly III

John Laird

Marq Lipton

Harvey Nickelson

Gayle Ortiz

William Ow

Miles Reiter

Manny Solano

Mary Solari

Steve Spragens

May 26, 2021

The Planning Commission

City of Watsonville Planning Commission

250 Main Street

Watsonville, California 95076

Re: Support for Habitat for Humanity's ReStore relocation to Watsonville

Dear Commissioners,

Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County is in favor of, and fully support Habitat's ReStore's move to Watsonville. As a key advocate of affordable housing, the ReStores raise funds that allow Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay finance its affordable housing programs. Through the efforts of Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay, over ten low-income families in Watsonville have a place they can call home. The lives of over sixty-six families in the Santa Cruz and Monterey counties has been improved through the housing that has been provided to them.

In addition to providing funding for the affordable housing programs, the ReStores provide employment to those seeking a flexible schedule, access to new and gently used building materials for homeowners and a reduction of items going to a landfill.

The presence of a ReStore in Watsonville will enable the community to access to construction material, both large and small, at reasonable prices. In addition, their presence on Main Street will add to the vibrancy, with added foot traffic and customers.

We welcome the Habitat for Humanity ReStore to Main Street, Watsonville and hope you will vote in favor of them.

Brendan Miele

Chief Operating Officer

Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County

Willy Elliott-McCrea, CEO



Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
800 Ohlone Parkway, Watsonville, CA 95076-7005
(831) 722-7110 ▼ thefoodbank.org



Deborah Muniz <deborah.muniz@cityofwatsonville.org>

[CDD] Public Comment - Habitat for Humanity

2 messages

Kevin Donnelly <kdonn2020@gmail.com>

Thu, May 27, 2021 at 2:17 PM

To: cdd@cityofwatsonville.org, dodgeforwatsonville@gmail.com, cyclingmomcole@gmail.com, veitcholson@gmail.com, eronicadorantespulido@gmail.com, annakso@att.net, lucyrojas1974@gmail.com, ed.acosta@sbcglobal.net

Cc: Satish Rishi <satishrishi1@gmail.com>

Agenda Item: Special Use Permit (Application No. 1360)

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to voice my support for the application by Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay for a Special Use Permit (Application No. 1360).

Habitat for Humanity is a well-known international organization focused on building affordable housing. The Habitat ReStores sell new and used building materials and furnishings, supporting building contractors as well as home owners and renters in local communities. Because much of the building materials are donated by lumberyards and large building suppliers, this new Habitat Restore will be able to greatly benefit the Watsonville community by selling building supplies at significantly lower prices than retail.

Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay plans to move its existing Santa Cruz ReStore to Watsonville, which requires a Special Use Permit. Please support the Special Use Permit Application No. 1360 on the agenda for the Tuesday June 1st Planning Commission meeting.

Sincerely,
Kevin Donnelly
Santa Cruz, CA



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

519 Main Street P | 831.688.8840
Watsonville, CA 95076 F | 831.688.8302

5/28/2021

City of Watsonville Planning Commission
250 Main Street
Watsonville, California 95076

Re: Support for Habitat for Humanity's ReStore relocation to Watsonville

Dear Commissioners,
Community Bridges | Puentes de la Comunidad is in favor of, and fully supports Habitat's ReStore's move to Watsonville. As a key advocate of affordable housing, the ReStores raise funds that allow Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay to help finance and support its critical mission to provide affordable housing opportunities to the clients and staff we serve. We also know that through their annual revenues of close to 1mm dollars the sales tax generated will positively affect our community.

In addition to providing funding for the affordable housing programs, the ReStores also provides employment opportunities to local residents who seek low barrier work and opportunities. In addition, ReStore will help support a green and environmentally friendly economy by ensuring access to new and gently used building materials for homeowners, thus reducing the amount of items going to the landfill.

We are here with open arms to welcome another mission critical social service to the neighborhood, and hope to have the support of the planning commission to approve their special use permit so that Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay, can continue to add to the number of local families who have been matched with an affordable home built by this organization.

We urge that you continue to see nonprofits as an ally to revitalization. Across the nation, we see nonprofits being the first to look for opportunities, to act, and to bring vibrancy, foot traffic and investment to communities. While outcomes of such efforts are often highly beneficial to the communities they are frequently met with hesitation and red tape. We hope that you will see this as the opportunity that it is, and we welcome you to come visit and see the investments we have made at our location versus the deferred maintenance left by the previous owner and commercial landlord of our property at 521 Main Street.

Sincerely,

Raymon Cancino
Chief Executive Officer, Community Bridges

Cc: Satish Rishi
Chief Executive Officer, Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay

OUR FAMILY OF PROGRAMS ● Elderday ● Lift Line ● Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County ● La Manzana Community Resources ● Live Oak Community Resources ● Mountain Community Resources ● Nueva Vista Community Resources ● Child & Adult Care Food Program ● Child Development Division ● Women, Infants and Children (WIC)



Deborah Muniz <deborah.muniz@cityofwatsonville.org>

[CDD] Letter from CAB in support of HFH

1 message

Maria Elena de la Garza <mariaelena@cabinc.org>

Sat, May 29, 2021 at 12:46 PM

To: "jveitcholson@gmail.com" <jveitcholson@gmail.com>, "cdd@cityofwatsonville.org" <cdd@cityofwatsonville.org>

Cc: Hannah Rogers <hannahr@cabinc.org>, Satish Rishi <satish@habitatmontereybay.org>

Dear Watsonville Commissioners,

On behalf of CAB, I respectfully submit a letter in support of Habitat for Humanity's ReStore coming to Watsonville. We believe it is a great opportunity to bring more business to the downtown.

Thank you for your consideration.

PLEASE BE SAFE: WEAR A MASK; KEEP 6 FEET APART; SHELTER IN PLACE; WASH YOUR HANDS; CELEBRATE SAFELY

MariaElena De La Garza

CAB Executive Director

406 Main St. Ste 207

Watsonville, CA 95076

For scheduling please email: EliG@cabinc.org;



Community Action Board
Marina District Council, Inc.

SKM_C45821052912420.pdf
87K

May 25, 2021

The Planning Commission
City of Watsonville Planning Commission
250 Main Street
Watsonville, California 95076



Re: Support for Habitat for Humanity's ReStore relocation to Watsonville

Dear Commissioners,

The Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County fully supports Habitat's ReStore's move to Watsonville. As a key advocate of affordable housing, the ReStores raise funds that allow Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay finance its affordable housing programs. Through the efforts of Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay, over ten low income families in Watsonville have a place they can call home. The lives of over sixty six families in the Santa Cruz and Monterey counties has been improved through the housing that has been provided to them.

In addition to providing funding for the affordable housing programs, the ReStores provide employment to those seeking a flexible schedule, access to new and gently used building materials for homeowners and a reduction of items going to a landfill. It is our hope that the ReStore will be committed to hire locally and we look forward to partner with them for subsidized employment opportunities for our clients.

The presence of a ReStore in Watsonville will enable the community to access to construction material, both large and small, at reasonable prices. In addition, their presence on Main Street will add to the vibrancy, with added foot traffic and customers.

We welcome the Habitat for Humanity ReStore to Main Street and look forward to partnering with them. Mil Gracias.


Maria Elena De La Garza
Executive Director,
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.

Our Mission
To partner with the community to eliminate poverty and create social change through advocacy and essential services.

Our Programs:
Emergency Payment Programs

Employment Programs: Alcantara and Day Worker Center

Davenport Resource Service Center

Housing Programs: Rental Assistance Program Youth Homeless Response Team Watsonville Works!

Immigration Services: Santa Cruz County Immigration Project and Thriving Immigrants Initiative



Deborah Muniz <deborah.muniz@cityofwatsonville.org>

[CDD] PUBLIC HEARING 5.a. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MONTEREY BAY @ 555 Main St.

1 message

Larry Peterson <frozensky22@gmail.com>
To: cdd@cityofwatsonville.org

Mon, May 31, 2021 at 9:21 AM

5/31/21

Larry D. Peterson
84 Blackburn St. #110
Santa Cruz, CA 95060To: Planning Commission, City Staff and City Council
City of Watsonville

Friends,

The last time I entered the Habitat for Humanity Restore on Swift St. in Santa Cruz there was some wonderful music, which I didn't recognize, playing on the stereo. . . I had to check it out, and discovered a Dave Clark Five record of which I was totally unaware! (-They have a great collection of vintage LPs.) I was sad to learn that this store might be moving to Watsonville; you'd be lucky to get it! They also have a large selection of high quality furniture; I always see tempting pieces. . . And they have a lot of cool books; even if you already have too many, it's easy to come home with a couple more! . . .

I think this special store would be a great addition to downtown Watsonville, but if y'all don't want it, maybe it will land somewhere closer to my residence in Santa Cruz, so I have mixed feelings. . . .

Sincerely,
Larry D. Peterson

Sent from my iPad



Deborah Muniz <deborah.muniz@cityofwatsonville.org>

[CDD] Habitat for Humanity ReStore

1 message

Larry Chew <larrychew7@gmail.com>

Mon, May 31, 2021 at 4:53 PM

To: cdd@cityofwatsonville.org

cdd@cityofwatsonville.org

SUBJECT: Habitat for Humanity ReStore

DATE: May 31, 2021

TO: Planning Commission, City Staff, and City Council
City of Watsonville

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

I request your support in the opening of the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Downtown Watsonville.

The ReStore is a one of a kind resale store. It does not duplicate anything currently in the Downtown. This makes it a destination store for people from throughout the county. I look forward to stopping for tacos de lengua or visit the Freedom Meat Locker when visiting the ReStore in Watsonville.

I've been long time customer and donor of goods to the ReStore located in the Westside of Santa Cruz. I donate excess materials and goods from my home improvement projects as well as buying items I need for home projects. The ReStore not only saves me money but also reduces the amount of stuff going to the landfill.

I've been a supporter of Habitat for Humanity for over 30 years as a donor and volunteer. I have fond memories of working weekends helping Habitat build houses in Watsonville back around 1992/1993. The ReStore will help support Habitat's mission in building houses for families.

Sincerely,
Larry Chew



Deborah Muniz <deborah.muniz@cityofwatsonville.org>

[CDD] June 1 review - Habitat for Humanity

1 message

Chip Kirchner <chipkirchner@gmail.com>

Mon, May 31, 2021 at 6:33 PM

To: cdd@cityofwatsonville.org

To whom it may concern

Please see our attached comments on this proposal

Thank you

Chip Kirchner



Habitat6121.docx

14K

May 29, 2021

Watsonville Planning Commission
250 Main st
Watsonville, CA 96076

On June 1 you will consider an application for a business license to allow Habitat for Humanity to occupy the currently vacant space at 555 Main st.

My wife and I own property in Watsonville including the Jefson building at 500 Main st. We are pleased with the progress we see downtown and feel Habitat for Humanity is a good fit.

As long-term business owners in Santa Cruz we know Habitat for Humanity and their commitment to facilitate affordable housing in our area. We respect their business model and mission. We believe that they work well with the downtown transformation underway and reflect well on the values of our community. We welcome them to the neighborhood and encourage your approval.

Sincerely

Kim & Chip Kirchner

May 31, 2021

Watsonville Planning Commission
250 Main Street
Watsonville, CA
95076

Sent via email to: cdd@cityofwatsonville.org

Re: Special Use Permit for proposed Habitat for Humanity Restore at 555 Main Street

Members of the Commission:

We are the long-time owners of the Miramar Restaurant Building at 526 Main Street, across the street from 555 Main Street.

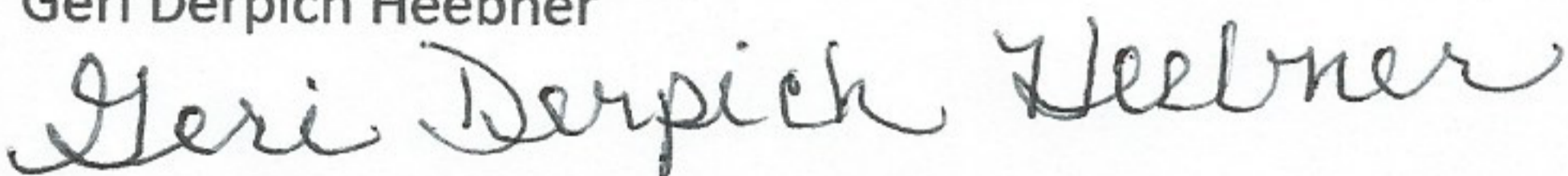
We are familiar with Habitat for Humanity and its Restores (Habitat). We are aware that it retails, for the ultimate benefit of the community, both new and recycled goods that attract landowners, contractors, and residents in the process of remodeling. This is a format that has been successful for Habitat nationally and will add to the availability of goods and services in downtown Watsonville. People will easily drive from Santa Cruz and Salinas to shop in this locale. We also know that Habitat has provided homes in Watsonville for residents that might never have owned a home otherwise and we are aware that Habitat is presently working on homes in the area.

With the forthcoming new business in our building, Terroir-In-A-Jar, and the Habitat Restore filling the empty space at 555 Main, two empty Main Street properties will be brought to life bringing positive, hopeful prospects for the community.

I am fully in support of neighboring an organization like Habitat. Please make a positive decision for our community and approve the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Watsonville.

Respectfully,

Gerri Derpich Heebner





Dedicated to the success of our members by:

- * creating a strong local economy*
- * promoting the community*
- * providing networking opportunities*
- * representing business to government*

P. O. Box 1748 * Watsonville, CA 95077 * pajarovalleychamber.com * Phone (831) 724-3900 * Fax (831) 728-5300

June 1, 2021

To: Watsonville City Planning Commission

On behalf of the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce, we would like to support the proposed Habitat for Humanity ReStore location in downtown Watsonville.

ReStore is a retail store and not to be confused with a thrift or second-hand store. They accept donations of new and gently used construction materials, furniture, appliances and household items, including new doors, windows, flooring, lumber, shower stalls and faucets.

The ReStores serve three main purposes.

One, through donations, they raise money which is used for building affordable homes in the community. Businesses, organizations and individuals donate new and gently used products, which are sold to raise money, which goes into supporting their affordable housing programs. To date, they have built fifty-five homes and enabled over sixty low-income families find homes and become a part of a community.

Second, through their flexible work schedule, they provide employment to members of the community as well as an opportunity for others to volunteer. They will employ three full-time employees and five part-time employees at the Watsonville ReStore. Some of their part-time workers are students and others are residents who require a flexible schedule. In addition to employment, they also expect to collect around \$70k in sales tax, which also benefits the local community.

Third, they reduce the amount of materials going into landfill and allow many gently used items to provide benefit to a second or third owner, prolonging the product's useful life. In 2020 the Santa Cruz ReStore diverted over 450 tons of reusable goods from the landfill.

They are planning on relocating their Santa Cruz ReStore to 555 Main Street in Watsonville. They look forward to serving a major part of their clientele living in Watsonville and the surrounding area; contribute to the Watsonville tax base; and address global warming issues by recycling useable materials, furniture, and clothing, which are all products many Watsonville customers need.

Thank you and we look forward to welcoming Habitat for Humanity ReStore to their Watsonville location soon.

Sincerely,

Shaz Roth

President/CEO

Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture