

Bringing the Community Together
Statement by Bill Dunlop, Chair, Citizens for a Livermore Central Park

In the interest of finding common ground and bringing the community together, the Citizens for a Livermore Central Park (CLCP), sponsors of the Central Park Plan Initiative, have been meeting with city leaders for the past six months to bridge the differences in their plans. The discussions, many conducted by a professional mediator, have been private. They have, however, reached a point of progress where CLCP can state publicly that we support the following downtown plans and actions:

PLANS

1. **Hotel location.** CLCP supports a hotel that is sited on the eastside of Livermore Avenue.
2. **Hotel height.** CLCP supports a destination hotel that rises up to 4 stories.
3. **Stockmen's Park and surrounding development.** CLCP supports Stockmen's Park and the development surrounding it between Livermore Avenue and the K Street extension as shown in the City Plan.
4. **Location of Veterans Way and parking south of it.** CLCP supports the current alignment of Veterans Way and the parking south of it.

ACTIONS

5. **Commitment not to file lawsuit.** CLCP agrees not to proceed with a lawsuit against the City of Livermore for violating voters' constitutional rights that protect initiatives.
6. **Withdrawal of the Central Park Plan Initiative.** CLCP will withdraw the Livermore Central Park Initiative that is scheduled to be on the November, 2020 ballot.

We are optimistic that City leaders will be open to these concepts as the downtown revitalization unfolds:

CONCEPTS

1. **Paid parking facility off Livermore Avenue funded by private investors.** Participation of the Eastside Hotel developer and others in discussions of a parking structure under the hotel, or on a site nearby, would be encouraged. The hotel's need for valet parking could be eliminated.
2. **Return of the hotel to the high-quality Marriott Autograph brand, or one similar.** A destination hotel, enlarged up to 4-stories, will enhance wineries, businesses and cultural amenities, and with its higher room rates, bring more hotel taxes to the City's general fund.
3. **Residential developer's consideration of relocating its housing to a nearby location.** Some or all of the 130 3- and 4-story affordable housing units shown in the City's Downtown Plan could be moved to properties north of Railroad Avenue between L Street and Livermore Avenue, an area already zoned residential. A study of this site shows that the 130 units in the City Plan could be accommodated, along with another 100 to 200. The higher number of units, with their proximity to the Downtown Center and public transit, could make the relocation attractive to the City's affordable housing developer. A larger, active park would then be possible for visitors and residents to enjoy in the heart of our city.

We believe that the goals of both parties will be achieved. As a result, we are committing not to file a lawsuit against the City, and to withdraw our Central Park Plan Initiative. In addition to moving forward together with a single downtown plan, our newly united community can better deal with the health and economic crisis caused by the pandemic.