

County of Santa Clara

Office of Veterans Services
68 North Winchester Boulevard
Santa Clara, California 95050-6701
(408) 918-4980 FAX 553-6016
www.sccgov.org/vets



July 10, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Office of Veterans Services, I want to express our excitement and strong support for the ideas, concepts, and direction of the Win6 Village project at 90 N Winchester Blvd., Santa Clara.

This pilot project focuses on how to create an environment to support, rehabilitate, and reintegrate our veterans. When completed, the lessons learned can be replicated around the State and the Country. We support the ideas of an agrihood (an urban farm based housing development) that incorporates seniors, low-income residents, students, and most importantly, our veterans! Our office will be reaching out to other veteran support offices in the State to find ways to engage them and further partner in this vision that honors our veterans.

As part of our support, we hope to combine our existing half-acre property with the project's six acres to allow for the project to have an even greater impact. We envision not only incorporating our offices into one of the new buildings, but also expanding our operations for additional services (such as onsite horticultural therapy, physical therapy, counseling, etc.). We see opportunities to have apartments allocated to veterans in need of transitional housing or therapy where they can work on the farm, acquire new skills, and help the community while helping themselves. The site could become a resource for our regional offices and provide valuable services not currently available to our veterans in Northern California.

This visionary project serves the public and our veterans, and we will do whatever we can to help make this a reality. We acknowledge that there are many challenges when trying to implement innovative ideas, but we are in Silicon Valley, the heart of innovation and creativity, and we are ready to dig in and get to work! This project, while complex, is creative and focuses on developing an outstanding solution for everyone: our seniors, our veterans, and the public.

We believe there are significant funding opportunities for a vision like this at the local and federal level and we will help to identify, engage, and work with the proper governmental organizations. Our message to the community, the City of Santa Clara, the City of San Jose, the County of Santa Clara, and the State of California is simple: Let's all come together to find a way to make this vision a reality.

We need to find ways to support our Veterans and communities now and for generations to come. Creating the Win6 Village is a rare opportunity to make this happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Herrera, Jr.", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Richard Herrera, Jr.
Director, Office of Veteran Services