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Mailing Address: 5662 Calle Real #204, Goleta, CA
Visitor Center: 120 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA

4/3/2024

City of Santa Barbara Planning Commission
Company/Organization
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA, 93101

RE: 621 Chapala St – New Daytime Workforce Development and Navigation Center

Dear Chair Baucke and Planning Commissioners:

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses from Goleta to Carpinteria, has remained engaged in community conversations regarding homelessness, to see where businesses can participate and to ensure that business impacts are heard and considered.

Through our participation in several groups, committees, and regular meetings, facilitated by SB ACT, it has become clear that our community will benefit from the proposed new daytime workforce development and navigation center. We have seen the effectiveness of the outdoor Neighborhood Navigation Centers to both help connect individuals with services and reduce impacts on the community. While these outdoor centers have been effective, downtown Santa Barbara requires an indoor location for individuals. This new daytime workforce development and navigation center will lead to more individuals receiving services, being prepared for the workforce, and getting placed into housing.

The Chamber has visited the Chapala St site. This proposed site is ideal, as it is in an ideally located location and has a layout conducive to the services that will be provided on site. We ask that you approve the requests before you and approve the opening of this center as a new drop-in facility.

Sincerely,

Kristen Miller
President & CEO
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce