

**San Mateo County Supervisor Adrienne Tissier
Speaking at Peninsula Habitat for Humanity's Rally for Affordable Housing & 100th Home Dedication
Saturday, September 8, 2007**

Today is truly a very special day.

Today is a milestone day as we dedicate houses No. 99 and 100 on the Peninsula under Habitat's leadership.

This means 100 families (and counting) have realized their dreams of not just owning a home ...

... but actually having an active role in building that home.

I'm here today because I have seen first-hand the tremendous work that Habitat does for all the communities on the Peninsula. I have seen the joy of the families as they received their keys.

However, at the same time I also see the housing crisis that surrounds us ... affecting all of us.

For those of us fortunate enough to have our own homes, the question that WE must ask ourselves, is:

"Where do we want to age? Or How do we want to age?"

The context for this thought is based on state projections showing that by 2030, approximately 30 percent of the Peninsula's population will be age 60 or older.

So we're talking about today's 40- or 45-year-old perhaps ready for retirement in 20 years.

Ready for retirement, but perhaps not ready for a retirement facility.

How will we meet the needs of a large number of active retirees, while also meeting the needs of older seniors, those in their 80s and even theirs 90s?

As the Baby Boomers age, there will be more of us and we are also living longer.

And for those who might want to sell that two-thousand-square-foot house in the hills, with the pool and yard, and downsize to a condo ...

... will they be able to do so, or will they be forced to move to Arizona or Florida?

We're already facing a housing crisis now. We're already losing families now.

What will this crisis look like in 20 years?

So when we talk about affordable housing, we must make sure that it's housing that is also attractive in terms of community and access to services.

A development could be very affordable, but it would mean little if no one wants to move in.

So what we must create are "Liveable Communities" with walking access to stores, health care and services. Public transit must be nearby and convenient.

And we must begin the process of creating such communities today, right now ...

... because the process is long, and with 20 cities, the process could become even longer.

That's the challenge of affordable housing on the peninsula, but I believe that by working together and working with organizations, such as Habitat, it's a challenge that can be met and conquered.

Thank you!!

And again, congratulations to everyone who worked so hard for these Habitat homes.