September 1, 2023

Sebastopol City Council 7120 Bodega Avenue Sebastopol, CA 95472

Dear City Council Members:

I live in Fircrest Senior Mobile Home Park. I have lived here for four years and have enjoyed this community very much. I appreciate all the things the owners and management have done to make this a pleasant place to live: the potlucks on Thanksgivings and July 4th, the new concrete benches, the taco truck, the dumpsters, to name a few.

As you know, residents here own their homes and rent the spaces they sit on. Rents here increase every year based on the rate of inflation. My Social Security payments increase as well, but they don't keep up with the rent increases, let alone food and utilities.

I am a senior on a fixed income and I'm concerned that I will eventually be priced out of my home, especially if inflation continues as it has in the past year or two. I love Sebastopol and I want to stay here; unfortunately, as I am sure you are aware, there is a severe lack of affordable housing in this town.

Please help retain the affordability of Fircrest Senior Mobile Home Park by amending the Rent Stabilization Ordinance to limit annual rent increases to no more than 70% of the Bay Area Consumer Price Index with a cap of 4%. Several other jurisdictions in the County have already made this type of adjustment.

Currently, FMHP Owners cannot raise rent when a mobile home is sold. I urge you to keep it that way. I'm concerned that if I ever need to sell, I will have more trouble selling my home with the increased rent.

I urge you to amend the current RSO to allow annual space rent increases of 70% of the Bay Area CPI up to a maximum of 4% whichever is less. I also urge you to keep in place the Vacancy Control we have had in our current ordinance since 1994.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most sincerely,

Jeanne Buckens FMHP Resident