

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
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ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

May 7, 2021

Office of the Chancellor
University of California, Berkeley
200 California Hall # 1500
Berkeley, CA 94720-1500

RE: UC Village Rental Relief

Dear Chancellor Christ,

The City of Albany writes to urge you to reconsider your office's plan to raise rents on UC Village residents as well as to not provide rental relief to residents in need.

The UC Village forms a unique and irreplicable part of our community and, as its representatives in local government, the Albany City Council takes the wellbeing of these residents seriously. The City of Albany and the University of California Berkeley share a commitment to making sure these residents have access to affordable housing and the opportunity to prosper. COVID-19 has put this goal at risk and contributed greatly to the insecurity of these residents, many of whom were rent burdened or severely rent burdened before the pandemic.

While your office has undertaken efforts to address some of the issues faced by UC Village residents, they do not go far enough. Individual repayment plans without financial assistance are not sufficient to address the significant overdue rent burden faced by students in the UC Village. Furthermore, the proposed rent increase is not appropriate considering the difficulty many of these students already face in paying for housing.

Therefore, the City of Albany respectfully requests that the University:

- Cancel the proposed 4% rent increase for 2021-2022
- Cancel any previously signed 25% repayment plans that does not include rent relief
- Cease activities that may cause students to feel intimidated, and activities to reclaim rental debt from student loans or other financial assistance.
- Support students applying for rental relief from the County or State
- Negotiate further terms on a collective basis with the UC Village Albany Tenants Union

We look forward to continue to engage with you on these matters.

Sincerely,

Ge'Nell Gary, Mayor
City of Albany