



## Residents Organize to Support LGBT-Welcoming Senior Community for Sacramento

Thanks to the work of two energetic and compassionate individuals, downtown Sacramento will soon be home to the region's first LGBT-welcoming senior affordable housing community, Lavender Courtyard by Mutual Housing.

Sacramento residents James Joseph and Michael Farnham were saddened and outraged by reports that LGBT elders were facing staff and resident harassment in senior housing communities. They envisioned an affordable housing community for LGBT seniors where they would be supported and celebrated. One day, James and Michael went on a tour of a local housing community, where they shared their vision with the CEO of the nonprofit organization Mutual Housing California.



Supporters of Lavender Courtyard by Mutual Housing at Sacramento City Hall.  
Photo courtesy of Mutual Housing California.

Inspired by their compassion and dedication, the CEO worked with James and Michael to recruit a group of local LGBT leaders who served as a leadership committee to explore moving forward with making their vision a reality. Together they selected a vacant parcel in downtown Sacramento, which Mutual Housing purchased. Steve Hansen, Sacramento's first openly gay city council member, acted as an adviser to the leadership team and helped them engage the support of key individuals and organizations.

By many accounts, the turnout at City Council when the City financing came up for a vote was unprecedented in its diversity and level of support of an affordable housing development. The financing resolution passed unanimously. Today, the Sacramento LGBT community is waiting to hear the outcome of Mutual Housing's funding search. They are also celebrating their victories thus far. James and Michael are more convinced than ever that voting and civic engagement are keys to realizing dreams and great outcomes.

Mutual Housing California develops housing that is affordable to a diversity of households. Our housing builds strong and stable communities through resident participation and leadership development. For more information, call (916) 453-8400 or visit our website at [mutualhousing.com](http://mutualhousing.com).

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