



## Developers plan affordable LGBT senior home in midtown

Housing developers are hoping to build an affordable senior living community in midtown, specifically for LGBT seniors. Mutual Housing California just submitted a formal project proposal to the city of Sacramento.

If everything goes according to plan, an empty lot on the southeast corner of 16th & F Streets will be transformed into Lavender Courtyards, the first LGBTwelcoming senior home in the central valley.

Members of the LGBT community, like 78-year-old Jerry Sloan, said they've been hoping for something like this for a very long time.

Sloan is a proud member of the LGBT community but he said not every senior is as open as he is, especially those who live in a senior or nursing home.

"People always ask questions like, 'Have you been married? Do you have children? Grandchildren? If you're not married, why aren't you married?'" Sloan said many people at senior homes were forced back into the closet.

That's why he thought it's important for LGBT seniors to feel like they have a place to go.

"We knew there was this need even 20, 25, years ago. We felt there was a need where people could be openly gay and live along their gay friends," Sloan said.

Leaders of the LGBT senior community took that need to Mutual Housing California, a regional housing developing company. They took on the project and used similar housing models across the country where LGBT friendly senior homes were successful.

The housing community will welcome anyone who fits the age and income qualifications. To be eligible, you must be 62 and older and fall between the 30 to 60 percent median income.



A rendering of Lavender Courtyard, a 54-unit project of about 25,600 square feet planned for the southeast corner of 16th and F streets.

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).

It doesn't matter if applicants don't consider themselves LGBT.

Housing developers said they're not trying to push anyone out. They just want to make sure LGBT seniors feel safe in their own home.

"We're setting an environment where harassment and bully aren't OK and where a really safe, welcoming community is. It's not exclusive. It's inclusionary," said Rachel Iskow, the CEO of Mutual Housing California.

Iskow said under the best case scenario, Lavender Courtyards will be ready and open for rent by the end of 2017.

To get involved or to find out more about Lavender Courtyards, you can email [lavendercourtyard@mutualhousing.com](mailto:lavendercourtyard@mutualhousing.com). To follow the progress of this housing development, click [www.mutualhousing.com](http://www.mutualhousing.com).