Hi Jordan,

Thanks for taking the time to call today.

Just for context, the Daily Californian is writing an article investigating recent construction trends in Berkeley, with a slight focus on the state of housing and affordable housing.

Before I start the interview, would you be OK if this interview was recorded, just for convenience of grabbing quotes later? Yes/no

If so, if you’d like anything not included, feel free to say something is “off the record”.

0) Could you briefly discuss in a few sentences what your role is as the director of Planning and Development?

- oversees planning…

1) As the director of Planning, what would you say are some of the most unique and important factors in Berkeley’s municipal code compared to other cities (Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance, height limit)? Anything that might be seeing some changes soon?

- important to check out the **downtown area plan**

- **Housing element** approved in Jan, revised in Feb, housing programs

Updates to southside zoning 🡪 Nov 14

2) It seems like in the past decade or so, there has been a bit of a shift in opinion in Berkeley from anti- to pro-housing. (Noticed a bit of construction happening downtown) What would you say are the biggest factors in this (if you believe that such a shift has happened)?

- No comment here. Jordan recommends asking elected officials

3) It seems like there’s been a lot of new housing being built in Berkeley, with some of it being affordable housing. That said, it seems like there is still a lag in the ratio of affordable housing (https://www.berkeleyside.org/2023/07/25/berkeley-housing-boom-construction).

I’ve read that funding is the main issue here; do you believe that’s it or are there other prominent issues that make building affordable housing difficult?

Pretty much just funding: **more subsidies**, different kinds

Market rate subsidy…

Advocating for increasing subsidies

**Measure O**, 135 million for affordable housing

4) Closing: For our own sake in writing this article, are there any resources you would recommend taking a look at? Or anything you think would be relevant that we didn’t cover?

- Recommends looking into **trends in state laws (or maybe out-of-state laws?)** as they relate to housing