

## Molinar, Tess

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**From:** Teresa Eilers <teresa@everyoneinla.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:34 PM  
**To:** Molinar, Tess  
**Subject:** Public Comment Planning Commission 5B

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Dear Members of the Pasadena Planning Commission,

My name is Teresa Eilers and I am an organizer with the United Way's Everyone In campaign. Our campaigns works to end homelessness throughout LA County and I work in the West San Gabriel Valley.

I am writing in support of amending church zoning codes to address our growing housing and homelessness crisis.

A recent report from UCLA authored by Gary Blasi sheds light on the ever-growing number of individuals falling into homelessness in LA County due to loss of income during the COVID pandemic. This report states that "the most optimistic assessment is that 365,000 renter households are in imminent danger of eviction. Unless there is immediate action to forestall those evictions, the most optimistic assessment of those who will become homeless is 36,000 households, including 56,000 children."

As the report states, these are "optimistic" projections for the County.

Every city in Los Angeles County needs to rapidly prepare to address the growing number of families forced out of their homes and into their cars or the streets. As someone who works throughout the San Gabriel Valley, I can assure you that what legislation is passed in Pasadena, is readily replicated throughout the region.

I encourage the Planning Commission to support zoning changes on church properties to allow ancillary structures or trailers to create affordable housing. Such changes will allow churches to help house their members and their neighbors.

I also encourage the Planning Commission to be creative in other solutions to our growing homelessness crisis. Examples include lifting code enforcements restricting the ability to have "safe parking" locations in Pasadena. Safe parking is a model readily used in Santa Barbara that creates a safe space with rules and case managers and allows individuals to sleep in their cars.

I also encourage the Planning Commission to allow a density overlay zone on church properties to allow churches to build affordable housing.

I am open to speak with any of you about other solutions you see in the city of Pasadena.

Best,  
Teresa Eilers

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**TERESA EILERS** *Field Organizer*

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