

Molinar, Tess

From: Scott White <wscottwhite@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:24 PM
To: Molinar, Tess
Subject: Affordable Housing - Church Overlay Proposal Advocacy

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Dear Planning Commissioner,

My name is Scott White and I am a member and at Lake Avenue Church located in Pasadena. As you may be aware we believe affordable housing is a critical need for our city evidenced by our commitment to fund both staffing and resources to help keep people housed when in a financial crisis. Working closely alongside many community stakeholders, we recognize the critical infrastructure role affordable housing must play for our city to grow in health overall and in every dimension, e.g education, health services, small business growth, service industry jobs etc.

As a life-long Pasadenan, I am writing to express my support for having high quality affordable housing built on property owned by local churches in the area. I would support churches in my neighborhood wishing to pursue this..

An overlay zone would allow congregations to build affordable housing. I know that currently seven churches in Pasadena are interested. This will allow churches to build affordable housing more quickly and less expensively. It could save over \$100,00 in cost per development, save at least a year getting it built, and provide the certainty needed to attract a highly qualified developer. Other cities like San Diego are also creating citywide zone changes to allow congregational land to be used for affordable housing.

I'm glad to support the desire of churches throughout the city to help address the affordable/homeless housing crisis we are currently facing. The 2020 homeless count was 527; studies show that there is an expectation of 45% increase in homelessness due to the pandemic. These studies should give us a deep pause and recognize that time is of the essence. Churches play a vital role in the community already, and are interested in contributing to quality of life improvements for all. This action would only underscore this commitment to overall community health.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Scott White