

Molinar, Tess

From: Sonja Berndt <sonja.berndt19@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:50 PM
To: Molinar, Tess
Cc: Reyes, David
Subject: Planning Commission Mtg. 6/24/20, Agenda Item #5.B. Correspondence for Public File

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Dear Members of Pasadena's Planning Commission:

I am a longtime resident of Northeast Pasadena. I want to thank you and Director David Reyes for including a discussion, at the Commission's June 24, 2020 meeting, of potential changes to Pasadena's Zoning Code that "would allow ancillary structure[s] or trailer[s] on church property for affordable housing."

As we are all aware, Pasadena's 2020 Homeless Count shows that our homelessness number is still over 500. The numbers of homeless seniors and chronically homeless persons continue to rise. African Americans continue to be substantially overrepresented among our homeless neighbors. We have so much more work to do.

The City needs to continue to pursue *more immediate* housing opportunities while we wait years for permanent supportive housing units to come on line. Religious facilities, including churches, have long played a very important role in partnering with the City to provide food and temporary lodging for our homeless neighbors. Housing advocates, including churches, have previously urged the City to amend its Zoning Code to allow churches to allow homeless persons who own vehicles to park safely on church property overnight without violating the Municipal Code.

I urge this Commission to explore revising Pasadena's Municipal Code to allow our religious facilities to assist in providing urgently-needed temporary housing for our homeless neighbors to include safe parking programs, the FEMA trailers the City received that are parked at the Rose Bowl, and modular housing, including pallet homes and other models.

Thank you for your consideration of this correspondence.

Sonja K. Berndt, R.N., J.D.