

Molinar, Tess

From: Gloria Newton <glonewton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Molinar, Tess
Subject: support overlay zone for churches building affordable housing

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Dear Planning Commissioner,

My name is Gloria Newton. I am a member of Pasadena Mennonite Church located at 1041 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena, CA.

I am writing to express my support for having high quality affordable housing built on congregational land. I would support churches in my neighborhood wishing to do this.

An overlay zone would allow congregations to build affordable housing more quickly and less expensively than on market-rate land. 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. This overlay zone practice is not without precedent: other cities like San Diego are also creating citywide zone changes to allow congregational land to be used for affordable housing.

Now, more than ever, we need to consider every option available to create housing as quickly as possible. The 2020 homeless count was 527; studies show that there is an expectation of 45% increase in homelessness due to the pandemic. I'm glad to support the desire of churches throughout the city to help address the affordable/homeless housing crisis we are currently facing, especially the seven churches in Pasadena that are already interested in building affordable housing on their land.

Sincerely,

Gloria Newton
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Pasadena, CA 91101