

Varsh, Tess

From: City Web
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:56 PM
To: Reyes, David; Garzon, Julia; Paige, Jennifer; White, Leon
Subject: Public Comment for Planning Commission on February 24, 2021 about Agenda Item 5A

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Commission, Committee or Legislative Body	Planning Commission
Meeting Date	February 24, 2021
Agenda Item Number	5A
Name	Sonja K Berndt
Email	sonja.berndt19@gmail.com
City	Pasadena
State	CA
Zip Code	91107
Comments	<p>Dear Commissioners: I am a longtime Pasadena resident. I perform direct outreach to our unsheltered folks on Saturdays with the organization Pasadena For All. My experience doing this outreach has allowed me to get to know these folks by name, their personal histories, and their dreams of becoming housed. I also am helping a man who is currently in a Project Homekey motel after living on the street for 13 years. I have come to know, firsthand, the numerous barriers our unsheltered folks must overcome in order to become permanently housed. I have also seen, firsthand, the tremendous improvement in mental health and outlook unhoused folks get when they become housed. Housing brings hope! I know the names and faces of unhoused folks that could be helped if churches could build affordable/supportive housing on their underutilized property. But these units won't be built unless the City changes its zoning so that congregations can build affordable housing "by right" and with sufficient density to make it feasible. I urge you to ask staff to draft a zoning change with this in mind so that congregations can do their part in addressing the urgent need for affordable/supportive housing in our City.</p>

I consent to have my comment read out loud during the meeting. Yes
