

Varsh, Tess

From: Wendy and David Gist <nicagists@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Varsh, Tess
Subject: Affordable Housing - Item #5 on today's agenda

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Greetings,

My name is Wendy Gist. I am a member of Pasadena Mennonite Church and a resident of Fair Oaks Court (corner of N. Fair Oaks Ave. and Peoria). I also am a staff member of San Gabriel Presbytery (PC(USA)) which has multiple churches in Pasadena.

I am writing to address item #5 on the agenda.

We desperately need more affordable housing in Pasadena! The only way my family was able to buy a home in Pasadena was because we were selected out of hundreds of applicants to become residents at Fair Oaks Court, which is a low- and moderate-income housing complex. We were some of the very few lucky ones.

Churches across Pasadena are stepping up to offer their land for affordable housing, but they need the zoning to be changed to let them do that! This zoning change will speed up the process of building the housing we need and will make the process considerably less expensive, which makes affordable housing dollars stretch further so that more can be built.

The developers who build affordable housing projects are usually nonprofits who can't afford to build low density projects or spend time and money on a lengthy bureaucratic process only to have the whole thing shot down by the neighbors. These nonprofit developers need zoning to provide sufficient density and an approval process that is not lengthy and is predictable, i.e., "by right". If the new policy does not provide these things, then it will not facilitate the affordable housing that we desperately need.

Thank you for your service to our community and for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Wendy Gist

588 N. Fair Oaks Ave. #109, Pasadena, CA 91103