

## Varsh, Tess

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**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:52 PM  
**To:** Reyes, David; Garzon, Julia; Paige, Jennifer; White, Leon  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Planning Commission on February 24, 2021 about Agenda Item 5A

## Public Comment for Planning Commission on February 24, 2021 about Agenda Item 5A

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<b>Commission, Committee or Legislative Body</b>	Planning Commission
<b>Meeting Date</b>	February 24, 2021
<b>Agenda Item Number</b>	5A
<b>Name</b>	Ferne Hayes
<b>Email</b>	haybish@aol.com
<b>Phone</b>	(626) 394-8328
<b>Address</b>	705 South Hudson Ave
<b>City</b>	Pasadena
<b>State</b>	CA
<b>Zip Code</b>	91106
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Dear Planning Commissioners,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to allow congregations to build affordable housing with sufficient density and "by right" on their property because the need is huge. The homeless count is still over 500. Schools closing because families can't afford to live here. There has been a steep decline in African American population (more than 25% between 2,000 and 2015). Because of the growing need, Pasadena has been mandated by the state through the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) to build 5,900 units of affordable housing in the next 8 years. More sites are needed to meet this goal. Allowing churches to build on their underutilized land could significantly increase the number of sites available. MHCH has identified 15 churches in Pasadena that are interested in having affordable housing built on their property, and an African American Church in Northwest Pasadena has been working with a developer to build 52 units of affordable housing on their property. But these units won't be built, and the RHNA numbers</p>

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won't be reached, unless the City changes its zoning so that churches can build affordable housing "by right" and with sufficient density to make it feasible.

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

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