

Varsh, Tess

From: Anthony Manousos <interfaithquaker@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:57 PM
To: Varsh, Tess
Subject: Letter to Planning Commissioners

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

I want to thank you for taking the time consider solutions to our city's urgent, and growing, need for affordable housing. When I drive to visit my 90-year-old mother-in-law who has just moved to Pasadena with her caregiver, I pass by two elderly people in wheelchairs on the corner of Lake and Villa. From their shopping carts, I see they're homeless and my heart sinks. Pasadena has done much to help our homeless neighbors, but obviously there is still much more that needs to be done. That's why I urge you to adjust our city's zoning so that churches and religious institutions can have affordable housing built on their underutilized land. Over 350 people live on the streets of our city and according to HUD's definition, 500 families are considered homeless because they live in overcrowded apartments or are couch surfing. We need to do all we can to help these families and children and seniors. That's why congregational land needs to be rezoned so that affordable housing can be built "by right." What is needed is careful, thoughtful zoning to ensure enough density to make the projects pencil out and at the same time be in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. I urge you ask staff to do this planning so that congregations can do their part in addressing the urgent need for affordable and supportive housing in our city.

In friendship,

Anthony Manousos