

2/23/21

Attention: Planning Commission

My name is Othella Medlock. I am the pastor of the New Life Holiness Church, located at 2005 N. Fair Oaks Ave, Pasadena. I am writing to address item #5 on the agenda.

Our church has been in an ongoing effort to assist in addressing the affordable housing shortage in Pasadena. We have been working with Dr. Jill Shook and the Congregational Land Committee for over a year to develop a plan to utilize 3 parcels of Church owned land to build affordable housing units.

We are a small congregation that has seen a significant decrease in church membership and attendance partially due to the relocation of families to cities where they can reasonably afford to live. Our membership cohort is made up, for the most part, of seniors and single parent families.

New Life Church has recently chosen an affordable housing developer that is willing to help us put our land to good use. The current plan is to erect 52 units of residential dwellings. One of the major roadblocks to the furtherance of our goal is the zoning restriction on this part of Fair Oaks Avenue. We are asking for an overly zone to be approved so that we can make this vision happen. We would like to see this as a "by right" ordinance to avoid unnecessary and costly delays.

The church has a plan to provide qualified parishioners with rental assistance from the proceeds of the ground lease. All in all, this would be a win-win situation for the city, impoverished citizens, and our membership. By this means, the church would also be fulfilling our commission to minister to our neighbors and the community.

Thank you for your benevolent consideration.

Sincerely,

Othella Medlock

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 Othella E. Medlock

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Pastor, New Life Church