

## Varsh, Tess

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**From:** Heather Richardson <richeather@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 7:56 PM  
**To:** Varsh, Tess  
**Subject:** Please support rezoning for churches who would like to use their land for affordable housing

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My name is Heather Richardson and I am a member of the Pasadena Foursquare Church and I care about those experiencing homelessness and financial insecurity. There are many people every day that we pass on street corners, shopping centers and parks who are living on the streets. There are those like ourselves who have had financial struggles that make it hard to pay our bills without assistance. It is clear that we desperately need more affordable housing in Pasadena!

Fortunately, my church is one of a few churches that provides affordable housing to residents in this city. We definitely couldn't have remained in Pasadena for over 15 years without the help of our church who provides an affordable home for my family and I to live in. Our love for our church family, neighborhood, and the beautiful diversity of this city and state has kept us here. It is what compels me to advocate for affordable housing opportunities. I most definitely want more people to find homes they can afford to live in in our great city.

I am glad that churches across Pasadena are stepping up to offer their land for affordable housing but they really need the zoning to be changed to let them do this. 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 go further so that more homes can be built and people can be housed.

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,

Heather Richardson