

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 11:56 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 15

Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 15

Name: Andre J White **Address:** Pasadena, CA 91104

Comments:

Greetings.

Firstly I'd like to thank Mayor Tornek for his leadership and efforts to increase affordable housing production during his tenure.

Secondly, I'd like for Council to **STRONGLY** consider creating a line item in its annual budget for the preservation and development of affordable housing. Is it too much to ask for a minimum annual allocation of \$5 million if budgetary funds are reallocated from programs and services where their reliance/existence is an outcome of members of our community not having safe and affordable housing? Many cities across our nation who are committed to affordable housing **ALSO** invest their budget dollars beyond the grants and dollars that come from outside agencies. For example, the City of Cambridge Massachusetts, a city of a comparable population to Pasadena, commits \$8 million - \$12 million annually to affordable housing from it's budget. This is alongside side state and federal subsidies. I challenge the City to further it's commitment by making affordable housing a permanent budgetary line item.

Thank you.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 1:07 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 15

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Name: Sonja K Berndt **Email:** **Address:** Pasadena, CA 91107

Comments:

I am a long-time resident of Pasadena. First, many thanks to Mayor Tornek and Councilmember McAustin for their longstanding commitment to affordable and supportive housing in our City. We are in an affordable housing crisis that has reached emergency status. We recently closed public schools due to declining enrollment caused, in part, by our high housing costs. Many homeowners and renters are barely hanging on due to the financial impact of COVID-19, and the threat of evictions looms on the horizon. I urge you to pursue the three suggestions in the report for how to increase the number of affordable units in our City namely, amending the zoning code to allow for affordable housing on land owned by religious institutions and the PUSD, and reviewing the inclusionary menu. In addition, Dr. Jill Shook gives the Council a number of other excellent suggestions that can be pursued to increase affordable housing in our City. Finally, if the City is serious about addressing our housing crisis, it will dedicate a minimum budget allocation for the preservation, acquisition and development of affordable housing. This could be accomplished, in part, by reallocating resources from other city agencies such as the police department. Thank you.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 1:43 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
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Name:	Email:	Phone:	Address:
Teresa Eilers			California, SOUTH PASADENA 91030

Comments:

My name is Teresa Eilers and I am with the United Way's Everyone In campaign.

On their last day of council, I want to honor Mayor Tornek and Councilmember McAustin for your dedication to solving our housing crisis. Thanks to both of you for your hard work.

Pasadena has made tremendous progress in creating affordable housing units. But, our job is far from over.

We still need your leadership to create thousands of more affordable housing units. In the next RHNA cycle, we need to create over 9,000 new units, and two thirds of those units need to be affordable. Record high unemployment numbers and the growing number of homeless encampments only fuel our urgency.

At the United Way, we believe it is possible to end homelessness through the creation of affordable housing with as-needed social services. We need your help to make it happen.

I am excited that Mayor-elect Gordo campaigned to advocate for affordable housing. We will need Mayor Gordo and the rest of the council's leadership to create thousands of new housing units.

Please be bold and create a dedicated source of funding within the City for the development and preservation of affordable housing.

Thank you

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 1:52 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
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Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 15

Name:	Email:	Phone:	Address: 5.
Bert Newton			Pasadena, CA 91101

Comments:

I want to thank Mayor Tornek and Councilmember McAustin for all their years of service, and especially for their leadership in increasing affordable housing in Pasadena.

I want to voice my support for the proposals for affordable housing put forth in today's staff report, especially regarding using church land to build affordable housing.

I also propose that we create more sources of funding for affordable housing. This funding could come from assessing \$75 for every home refi or home purchase over \$500,000 or a reallocation of funds from other parts of the general fund, such as was done by the county with Measure J.

Without another significant source of funding for affordable housing, its production will remain limited.

Additionally we need to not only stop the displacement of black and brown communities from our city, but also work to bring back those already displaced.

To stop the current displacement, building affordable housing is not enough because it takes too long and not enough is being built. We need rent control.

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Please support a state-level repeal of Costa-Hawkins.

To bring back those displaced, we need to bump up the priority for them to return in the Local Preference policy.

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From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 2:23 PM
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Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 15

Name:	Email:	Phone:	Address:
Allison			Pasadena, CA
Henry			91104

Comments:

Dear Council;

Along with groups like MHCH and POP!, I strongly support allowing faith communities to build housing on their land. I also support the ideas offered in comment including by Andre White re more city investment in preservation of affordable housing.

Thanks to the staff for the ideas uplifted in today's report, and I'm appreciative for all that has been done In Pasadena on affordable housing production, though we could increase the inclusionary requirement to 25%. We know the need is greater than what we have.

Staff's report notes key findings from the CAHNR as current tenants' struggle to keep up with the cost of rent. Since this is the case, we need to look at preservation of housing stock and its affordability. Other ideas/solutions to preserve affordable housing:

rent control/stabilization

affordability covenants

tenant first right to purchase

a vacancy tax

a rental registry (we need to know our current stock)

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As the cold nights become more common, I worry about fires caused by bad wiring, dangerous heaters, and other unsafe factors. We can't lose our stock to blight or fire.

Finally, best wishes to Mayor Terry Tornek and Councilwoman Margaret McAustin.

Sincerely,

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 2:30 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
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Name:	Email:	Phone:	Address:
Anthony G Manousos			PASADENA, CA 91104

Comments:

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council members,

I want to thank you for your commitment to affordable housing. I especially want to commend Margaret McAustin and Terry Tornek for being champions of affordable housing and wish them both well. I also want to congratulate our new mayor, Victor Gordo, who told us repeatedly during his campaign that affordable housing throughout the city would be a top priority. In response to Housing Department's excellent report, I'd like to make a few suggestions for achieving the city's goal of "decent and affordable housing for everyone."

- ⊗ Have required education for City Council members on economic and community benefits of affordable housing—which was in the last Housing Element, but not implemented.
- ⊗ Create an affordable housing commission with a level of decision-making power over the use of in lieu fees that would study the issues and discover creative ways to address the housing crisis.
- ⊗ Host public forums that elicit creativity and ideas.

Speaking of public forums, I'd like to invite you all to the annual gathering of Making Housing and Community Happen in which we'll be honoring Council members Kennedy and McAustin among others, and sharing our vision for making affordable housing happen in our city.

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From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 2:35 PM
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Name: Areta Crowell **Email:** **Phone:** **Address:** 1115
Cordova,#403, Pasadena, CA
91106

Comments:

I am Areta Crowell, a member of Pasadena Presbyterian Church, and pleased to see the efforts being made to address the urgent need for more affordable housing . Special thanks to Mayor Tornek and Councilmember McAustin for their years of leadership in keeping this effort alive. I appreciate the work now being done to expand beyond the previous good work with new initiatives. The update on Pasadena's accomplishments shows the city is still woefully short of what is needed. We have one very good option to use available land owned by churches. Several churches are ready and waiting for the city to move ahead quickly with bylaw changes which will facilitate use of their land for affordable housing. I hope you will keep pushing to have this church land zoning change come to you for action quickly.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 2:55 PM
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Name: Gloria **Email:** **Phone:** **Address:**
Newton Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101

Comments:

Dear City Council, I would like to thank outgoing Mayor Tornek and Councilmember McAustin for their years of service to the city and specifically for their support of affordable housing initiatives. I urge incoming Mayor Gordo and Councilmember Williams as well as the continuing council members to receive with open ears and hearts the proposals for affordable housing brought today by the Planning Department. We must be open to every creative option for increasing the supply of affordable housing, including approval of the overlay zone proposal that would allow churches to build housing on excess land. We can dig in our heels and try to "preserve our neighborhoods," or we can recognize that preservation for some means housing insecurity for many. Please consider the greater good in the discussions about housing, with the knowledge that our city is only as safe and welcoming as it is for the most economically vulnerable among us. As a 32-year Pasadena resident and home owner, I want my city to stand out as a shining example of what it looks like to say "YES" to innovating housing solutions.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 3:27 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
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Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 15

Name: Jill
Suzanne
Shook
Email:
Phone:
Address: Pasadena,
CA 91104, Pasadena, CA
91104

Comments:

Dear Honorable Mayor Tornek and City Council members,

I applaud Mayor Tornek and Council person Margaret McAustin for their strong commitment to affordable housing during their tenure on the council. We are also thankful that our incoming mayor has made affordable housing part of his platform. In addition to allowing religious institutions and school district land to be properly zone so that affordable housing can be built, and reviewing the inclusionary menu, please also add the following to your list:

- ⊗ End all fees on Affordable ADUs
- ⊗ Increase heights and caps in all the specific plans and downtown for affordable units.
- ⊗ Create a dedicated local funding sources for affordable housing--i.e. \$75 fee on all real estate transfers for homes over \$500,000. The Inclusionary In-lieu fee is a good source, but it it not a dedicated source.
- ⊗ Require off- site affordable housing go through the Housing Department-putting more \$ into our housing dept.
- ⊗ Pass a small lot ordinance.

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- ⌘ Allow four-on-a-lot where appropriate.
- ⌘ Create an affordable housing commission.
- ⌘ Strengthen the Tenant Protection policy.
- ⌘ End all downzoning until our homeless count is zero.
- ⌘ Plan all the above with a racial equity lens.

This Thanksgiving I thank God for each of you and your service to Pasadena.

Dr. Jill Suzanne Shook

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 3:44 PM
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Name: POP Housing Justice Committee - Ed Washatka, Kimberly Douglas, Lorynne Young, Rick Cole, and Laura Joseph	Email:	Address: Phone: Pasadena, Ca. 91104, Pasadena, California 91104
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Comments:

Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP) appreciates the Council and staff for providing today's report on the City's affordable housing production. We acknowledge the Council and Staff for adopting and implementing the progressive policies as outlined in the report.

At this time, we also wish to recognize Mayor Terry Tornek and Councilmember Margaret McAustin for their advocacy for affordable housing during their tenures on the Council.

POP welcomes Mayor-elect Victor Gordo and Councilmember-elect Felicia Williams to their new roles starting next month as we look forward to collaborating with the entire Council and Planning Staff on the revision of the General Plan's Housing Element due in 2021.

We urge the Council to amend regulations identified in today's report such as updating zoning laws to allow affordable housing on property owned by religious institutions and rezoning PUSD properties to allow multiple types of housing. Such actions would provide a jump start to increased housing production.

Lastly POP is encouraged by today's report that 907 additional affordable housing units are "in the pipeline."

We hope that the City expedites these projects as part of the goal proposed recently by Councilmember John Kennedy to produce 1,000 affordable units within the next three years.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes