

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 12:03 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

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

Comments:

I am a longtime resident of Pasadena. I urge the Council to approve the recommendations of the EdTech Committee as stated in the Housing Department's memo with the exception of the following: proposed priority #2 gives preference to households who were unable to remain in Pasadena, whether due to rising housing costs or gentrification, who maintained a primary residence in Pasadena in the five (5) years prior to their application for available housing. This does not sufficiently address the problem of displacement due to the City's housing policies of the past, which disproportionately affected persons of color. African Americans have been facing displacement from our City for over 20 years. Therefore, this priority should be available to any households that were displaced from Pasadena over the past 20 years. Secondly, currently, the priority for persons who were involuntarily displaced from Pasadena, who are homeless, is priority #4. The report recommends downgrading this priority to #5. Why are we prioritizing persons who are already housed over persons who are unhoused? This is illogical and short-sighted. We are so far behind in housing our unhoused persons. We need to take whatever action we can to house unhoused persons. Thank you.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Entry Submitted: March 8, 2021 at 12:02 pm

03/08/2021
Item 2

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 12:23 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

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

Comments:

Housing displacement due to soaring housing costs in our area has hit the Black and Brown communities the hardest. We have seen a steady numerical decline in the African American population of Pasadena for over 20 years. Many who grew up here and whose families have lived here for generations have been forced to find affordable housing elsewhere. The proposal to prioritize 20% of affordable housing for those involuntarily displaced is needed to help people return.

I want to strongly urge, however, that the time frame considered be lengthened to 15 years rather than 5. This longer time frame not only accounts for more of the time that we have seen a decline in the African American population, it also takes into account the 2008 foreclosure crisis which hit the African American and Latinx communities particularly hard.

I want to thank the Housing Department and the EDTech Committee for bringing this proposal forward!

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Entry Submitted: March 8, 2021 at 12:22 pm

03/08/2021
Item 2

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 2:02 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

Name: Ferne Hayes **Email:** **Phone:** **Address:** Pasadena, CA 91106

Comments:

Mayor Gordo and City Councilpersons,

It is good that Pasadena recognizes the impacts of housing displacement created by gentrification and the escalating costs of housing. Soon after I moved to Pasadena in 1970 I saw how Redevelopment Programs and freeway construction also pushed people out of their homes. The EdTech proposal to try to ameliorate should be passed however the time frame for displacement must be much more than 5 years. Please correct this oversight before you vote.

Ferne Hayes
District 7

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Entry Submitted: March 8, 2021 at 2:02 pm

3/08/2021
Item 2

Iraheta, Alba

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 2:13 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

Name: Anthony **Email:** **Phone:** **Address:** ...
Manousos in 3 Pasadena, CA 91104

Comments:

Dear Mayor and City Councilmember, I want to express my appreciation to Ed Tech for approving, and City Council for considering, giving preference to local Pasadena residents who've been displaced due to gentrification and the 2008 economic downturn. During the last decade or so, 25% of the African American community have left Pasadena. The original staff proposal to Ed Tech would have prioritized 20% of affordable housing for those who have been displaced in the past decade. When the ED Tech Committee shortened the time to 5 years, it didn't take into account the Great Recession and its impact. According to National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), since 2007, nearly 8% of African Americans and Latinos have lost their homes to foreclosure compared to 4.5% of non-Hispanic whites at similar income levels. The disparity ratio shows that African Americans are more than 70% more likely to have been foreclosed upon than non-Hispanic whites. Low-income renters, many of whom are people of color, were hit especially hard by the Recession. Please take this into consideration and extend the timeframe to 15 years. Thanks for making a commitment to ensuring that Pasadena is a vibrant, racially and ethnically diverse community.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Entry Submitted: March 8, 2021 at 2:13 pm

03/08/2021
Item 2

Iraheta, Alba

Subject:

FW: Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

Name: Jill Suzanne
Shook

Email: **Phone:**

Address: Pasadena, CA 91104, Pasadena, CA
91104

Comments:

Dear Pasadena City Council,

I thank God for each of you! When I purchased my home on N. Garfield in 1994, I was excited to live in a primarily African-American neighborhood. But as I improved my property, and other who looked like me began to move it, our property values increased, and we saw many of our Black neighbor leave. Neighbor thanked me for making their property values increase, but I did not see this as good news. I did not move in to push others out. One Black family kitty corner from me and another two doors up, went into foreclosure. I helped two Latino families to save their homes from foreclosure, waiting in long lines for three days at the LA Convention Center. But later the bank still foreclosed. Others who rented could not keep up with increasing rents. When I thought I was doing good by being a neighbor in the NW part of Pasadena, I unintentionally became part of the problem. I love this right-to-return policy. Please be sure it set up to reach back to 15 years, so those who were displaced during the 2007-2008 mortgage meltdown, will qualify to return if they wish. Sincerely, Jill Shook

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Entry Submitted: March 8, 2021 at 2:24 pm

03/08/2021
Item 2

Subject:

FW: Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

Public Comment for Meeting on March 8, 2021 about Agenda Item 2

Name: Ed

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Washatka

Pasadena, California 91104

Comments:

I want to extend my support for the staff recommendation to create a new priority set aside of 20% of affordable units for long-time local residents who were displaced and forced to leave Pasadena. It's equally important that the set aside time frame should be a minimum of 15 years instead of a 5 year time limit.

One reason for an extended time frame is the housing crisis and collapse occurred in 2008--13 years ago.

That crisis only served to exaggerate the already pronounced emigration of residents from communities of color or low income because of economic or social discriminatory practices.

The shortage of affordable housing did not abruptly appear 5 years ago nor did the impact of the lack of affordable housing suddenly affect communities of color or low-income residents only 5 years ago.

The priority system of preferences needs to recognize those who've been marginalized by economic circumstance or gentrification or racial housing policies. These discriminatory practices have been going on a lot longer than 5 years.

Reaching back 15 years to provide a priority to someone who may have suffered a social or economic injustice because of decades long inequitable policies in this City seems only right.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Entry Submitted: March 8, 2021 at 3:33 pm