

Martinez, Ruben

From: Bert Newton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2021 7:47 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse; Kennedy, John
Subject: Item 2 MODIFICATION OF THE PASADENA LOCAL PREFERENCE AND PRIORITY SYSTEM GUIDELINES FOR CITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS

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Dear City Council,

Over the last 25 years, as housing costs have soared, many people have been displaced from Pasadena, but no community has been hit harder than the African American community, as indicated by some severe statistics: According to the Pasadena Journal, between the years 2000 and 2015, the African American population of Pasadena decreased by approximately 25%.

While there is no indication that this most recent displacement was caused by any particular city policy, we do know that there is a long history, in our society in general and in Pasadena in particular, of racist housing policies and practices that have economically marginalized the African American community. In the face of that history, we did not do enough to stop this displacement.

The Economic Development and Technology Committee discussed a proposal last week aimed at trying to bring a small amount of correction to this sad history, but I think they made a mistake in changing the original policy proposed by the housing department.

The original proposal would have prioritized 20% of affordable housing in the city for people who have been displaced in the past 10 years. The EDTech Committee shortened the time to 5 years.

African Americans have been experiencing displacement for over 20 years. In many cases, these are people who have grown up in Pasadena and whose families have been in Pasadena for generations.

The time frame for displacement should be at least 10 years, not 5. I really think it should be even longer than 10, perhaps 20 years.

Under the current proposal, someone from Nebraska who moved to Pasadena 7 years ago and was displaced 3 years ago would have priority over someone who was displaced 7 years ago and who grew up here.

Please reconsider this proposal and lengthen the time frame for people who have been displaced.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Respectfully,

Rev. Bert Newton
Ministry Associate, Pasadena Mennonite Church

[REDACTED]
Pasadena, CA 91101

Martinez, Ruben

From: Timothy Sales <1...>
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 11:29 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Bell, Cushon; De La Cuba, Vannia; Rivas, Jessica
Subject: AR2: Affordable Housing Preference & Priority Policy

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I support the adoption of the proposed policy, and encourage the City Council to consider the following opportunities related to implementation.

1. Duration / Timelimit for New “Prior Resident” Set-asides During Marketing Window. Allow for a time limit (for example, 120 days) after the beginning of marketing window for an affordable housing unit held as part of the 20 percent prior resident set-aside priority window to be in effect. In my experience as an affordable housing professional who has run affordable housing marketing programs, target set-asides can be a challenge to fill. How long would a unit be held empty awaiting the identification, recruitment and approval of a household that meets the requirements of the “prior resident set-aside”?

2. Fund Affordable Housing Outreach, Recruitment, Education, and Financial Preparedness Efforts. While the need for affordable housing units is great, the need is also high for efforts to educate the community about affordable housing, especially when, where and what types of affordable housing will be available in the City. I suggest that the City develop a comprehensive “interest list” (i.e., email-based communication list) for all types of affordable housing (Section 8, Inclusionary, non-profit sponsored, homeless support, etc) so that interest parties would be sure to hear about affordable housing opportunities. The City could work more closely to coordinate this list & the City’s own outreach efforts with the education efforts of various City housing advocates and non-profits that currently are addressing the outreach and education issue in a “piece meal” manner.

Thank you!

Timothy Sales

Owner, Affordable Housing Solutions & Development of Southern California, LLC
Member, Pasadena Transportation Commission
Member, Pasadena Design Commission

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Anthony Manousos < >
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 11:56 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Local preference for displaced Pasadenans

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Dear Mayor and City Council members,

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 economic downturn of 2008. 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 10 years. 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.

Respectfully yours,

Anthony Manousos
District 1

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2021 MAR -8 PM 12:00



Dear Honorable. City Council Members,

I wish to offer my thanks to each of you for your service and for the opportunity to weigh in on the local preference ordinance, which I think is an excellent idea. I have two points I'd like to make:

- 1) I support the staff recommendation for setting aside 20% of affordable units for long-time local residents who've been displaced, but would like to see the timeframe extended to 15 years, not five years.
- 2) I have a concern that the current use of written letters online is making it hard for some local residents, particularly people of color, to have their voices heard. We need to provide for more ways to engage in addition to written comments.

As I listened in to the Ed Tech subcommittee and heard all the deliberations, I loved hearing how hearts and minds were being shaped when as you were listening to each other. Thank you for providing an opportunity for displaced residents to have a right to return to our city. Those who have been displaced do not really have a voice in this since they no longer reside in our city. So, I'm thankful that Ed Tech voted to support those who have been displaced, but I feel it's important to reach back to 15 years or more. I will explain why this is so important.

While I support the points made at the Ed Tech meeting, I feel that the foreclosure crisis in 2007-2008, which occurred 15 years ago, needs to be taken into consideration. That is when many people of color were disproportionately affected, faced foreclosure and left our city. For this reason, I feel that the timeframe must be reach back to at least 15 years to show our love and compassion for those who grew up here and still have family and church families in Pasadena, and still consider Pasadena their home.

I'd like to share a few stories below of people who have difficulty speaking for themselves for a number of reasons, especially due to technology limitations. And I ask that you consider ways to allow those who are technologically challenged to engage with the city council via telephone.

Please consider these stories as you search your heart to consider what an appropriate time frame might be:

- Two years ago when I had the opportunity to speak briefly at an African American church on Lincoln Ave. I asked if anyone might be willing to share their story of displacement for a talk I was to give at the Women's Club. A dear courageous woman agreed to share the story of her displacement. Even though it had been over 10 years since she left her home, tears flowed as if it had been yesterday. This story is recoded if you wish to hear it.
- About five years ago An African American pastor on North Fair Oaks approached me and said that his church lost 17 families jus that year alone, all due to gentrification.
- Another church on N Fair Oaks has only eight members left. Some have moved out of state.

I could go on and on with stories I have heard from pastors of color who have had to take on second and third jobs in order to stay afloat since their congregations can no longer support them. Even pastors have moved to a distance because they cannot afford to live in the city where they serve. One pastor I know lives in

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Fontana another one moved to Lancaster. This makes it hard for them to stay engaged in Pasadena or know how to get their congregation engaged.

Technological challenges and the need for more ways to engage with the city:

Most of the African American pastors I know I have never engaged with city processes and many don't really have the tools to do so--namely computers, internet access, and if they do, they often lack the awareness of the need to engage or the savvy on how to use these tools. While going online and writing up a 200-word comment may seem easy enough for most of us, this is not an easy by any means for many of the older African Americans that I know and work with. In my experience, they are often overwhelmed and stressed by caring for so many struggling family members due to Covid and other ailments and just trying to make ends meet.

One dear friend from the Bethel church said, "Jill, please let me just pick up the phone I'm good at that". And I said to her, "Yes, I know you are excellent at speaking, teaching Sunday School and showing your love. I wish you could just call in, but the system is not allowing that right now." So, she and I worked and worked for almost an hour to get her 200 words typed into the right space using her cell phone. It was painful for both of us. This is not just one story but many with whom we have worked, who are just not comfortable with how the city is allowing comments at this point. We really need to open this up and allow more ways for people to participate. Asking for more options for how to engage with city government may not seem like it's part of this agenda item. But I see it as clearly connected to this issue.

I believe your vote today is an opportunity for you to move toward making right past wrongs, especially for our African Americans brothers and sisters. I think this adjustment will put Pasadena on the map with other cities taking the lead for racial justice in this very practical, tool you are voting on today.

Thank you for considering this imported adjustment to the local preference policy. Please extend the timeframe to 15 years. This will help bring back some of our long-time valued residents of our city.

Sincerely, Jill Shook, ED MHCH-Making Housing and Community Happen

Jill Shook

"If a man does not know what port he is steering towards, no wind is favorable to him."

Jill Shook, Missions Door, Catalyst <http://www.missionsdoor.org/missionaries/shook-jill>

Doctor of Ministry, Bakke Graduate School

Blog: makinghousinghappen.net Websites: www.makinghousinghappen.org and makinghousinghappen.com

Author/Editor: *Making Housing Happen: Faith Based Affordable Housing Models*

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Cynthia Kurtz < >
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 12:16 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Council item 2 for March 8, 2021

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Mayor Gordo and Pasadena City Council,

Pasadena's preference and priority system for local residents was adopted after many City Council discussions on how to retain Pasadena's economic and racial diversity. It was unknown how well it would actually work but a review 15 years later proves it has served the City well.

The change being considered this afternoon to address housing displacement and recognize former residents strengthen the local preference system. I believe considering an even longer period of time such as priority for former residents who could demonstrate Pasadena was their primary residence 10 or 15 years ago and were displaced would be an appropriate amendment as it coincides with the adoption of the original preference system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Kurtz

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Una Lee Jost <
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 1:56 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: 2021-03-08 Pasadena City Council Special Meeting - Public Comment - Agenda Item 2

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-- START PUBLIC COMMENT --

Dear Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo and Pasadena City Councilmembers:

I am a long-time resident of Pasadena, and member of Pasadena Mennonite Church.

I am writing to request reconsideration of the proposed modification of the Pasadena Local Preference and Priority System Guidelines for City Affordable Housing Programs.

Over the last 25 years, as housing costs have soared, many people have been displaced from Pasadena, but no community has been hit harder than the African American community, as indicated by some severe statistics: According to the Pasadena Journal, between the years 2000 and 2015, the African American population of Pasadena decreased by approximately 25%.

While there is no indication that this most recent displacement was caused by any particular city policy, we do know that there is a long history, in our society in general and in Pasadena in particular, of racist housing policies and practices that have economically marginalized the African American community. In the face of that history, we did not do enough to stop this displacement.

I understand the Economic Development and Technology Committee ("EdTech") discussed a proposal last week aimed at trying to bring a small amount of correction to this sad history, but it appears they may have made a mistake in changing the original policy proposed by the housing department.

The original proposal would have prioritized 20% of affordable housing in the city for people who have been displaced in the past 10 years. The EDTech Committee shortened the time to 5 years.

Our African American neighbors have been experiencing displacement for over 20 years. In many cases, these are people who have grown up in Pasadena and whose families have been in Pasadena for generations.

I believe the time frame for displacement should be at least 10 years, not 5. Ideally, it should be even longer than 10, perhaps 20 years.

Under the current proposal, someone from Nebraska who moved to Pasadena 7 years ago and was displaced 3 years ago would have priority over someone who was displaced 7 years ago and who grew up here.

Please reconsider this proposal and lengthen the time frame for people who have been displaced.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Una Lee Jost
Resident of the City of Pasadena, District 4

-- END PUBLIC COMMENT --

