

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**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

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### **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.

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**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

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

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

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### **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.

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**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  
**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**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Address:</b>
Teresa Eilers			California, SOUTH PASADENA 91030

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### **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

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**Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes**

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2020 1:52 PM  
**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:	Email:	Phone:	Address:
Bert Newton			Pasadena, CA 91101

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### 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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**Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes**

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2020 2:23 PM  
**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

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Address:</b>
Allison			Pasadena, CA
Henry			91104

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### 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,

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**Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes**



**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** City Web  
**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2020 2:30 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
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## Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 15

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Address:</b>
Anthony G Manousos			PASADENA, CA 91104

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### 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  
**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:** Areta Crowell      **Email:**      **Phone:**      **Address:** 1115  
Cordova,#403, Pasadena, CA  
91106

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### 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.

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**Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes**

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