

Jomsky, Mark

From: Wesley Reutimann
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 6:48 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Kristin Chew Reutimann
Subject: 5/23 Public Comment - By Right Affordable Housing on Religious Properties

Some people who received this message don't often get email from Wesley Reutimann. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

As Pasadena residents and PUSD parents who care deeply about the health and welfare of our community and neighbors, **we strongly support removing barriers to the creation of affordable housing on religious properties in Pasadena.**

Pasadena, like many developed cities, is short on space to build affordable housing. The City is however very fortunate to be home to a growing number of churches interested in adding affordable housing to underutilized spaces on their properties. Given their commitment to public service, these institutions are well positioned to make space and provide ongoing support for lower-income residents and families in need of housing.

Most church land in Pasadena is not currently zoned to accommodate meaningful and financially feasible levels of affordable housing (e.g., 50 units or more). The City's zoning code must be updated to permit affordable housing development on religious properties "by right" in all parts of Pasadena and affirmatively further fair housing.

While you don't have the power to reverse the ongoing housing affordability crisis, as local decision-makers you do have influence over zoning rules that limit affordable housing in the City. We urge you to take advantage of this low/no cost opportunity to encourage affordable housing development in Pasadena.

Thank-you for your service to the community,

Wes and Kristin Reutimann
Pasadena 91103

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Lisa Finlay
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 5:20 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Rezone religious land for affordable housing

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Dear Mayor and City Council:

I am writing to express support for the proposal to rezone religious land in Pasadena for affordable housing. Affordable housing is desperately needed in Pasadena. Please ensure that a zoning amendment is passed that will actually work in creating more affordable housing. Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH) has addressed specific factors that need to be clarified in the amendment in their letter, so I am recommending that the council seriously consider what MHCH has proposed.

Thank you,
Lisa Finlay

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Melissa Yee
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:21 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Rezone Religious Land for Affordable Housing

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

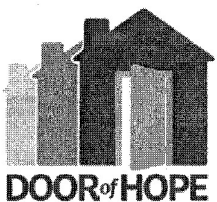
I support the proposal to rezone religious land in Pasadena for affordable housing. There are ways that this zoning amendment can be written that will assure that it will work and actually produce affordable housing, and there are ways that it can be written that will assure that it will not work. For example, if the amendment allows for sufficient density at each site, then projects will be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will work. But if it does not allow enough density at each site, then projects won't be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will be virtually useless.

There are other factors, such as the process of approval for each project, that will have bearing on whether the zoning amendment will work or not.

Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH) has addressed these factors in their letter, so I recommend that the council seriously consider what MHCH has proposed.

We desperately need more affordable housing in Pasadena. Please pass a zoning amendment that works to create more affordable housing.

Thank you.



Melissa Yee
Human Resources Manager

Empowering families facing homelessness to transform their lives

P.S. Join us at our next Stories of Hope Tour! [Click here](#) for details.

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Lisa Finlay
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 5:20 PM
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I am writing to express support for the proposal to rezone religious land in Pasadena for affordable housing. Affordable housing is desperately needed in Pasadena. Please ensure that a zoning amendment is passed that will actually work in creating more affordable housing. Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH) has addressed specific factors that need to be clarified in the amendment in their letter, so I am recommending that the council seriously consider what MHCH has proposed.

Thank you,
Lisa Finlay

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Helen Shi Stafford
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:23 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Rezone religious land for affordable housing

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Dear Mayor and City Council

I attend Pasadena Foursquare Church and I live in Pasadena District 7.

I support the proposal to rezone religious land in Pasadena for affordable housing.

I've seen the importance of affordable housing in the lives of my patients when I worked at a community clinic in Pasadena. My patients often had to choose between eating healthy food vs being able to pay rent. For my diabetic patients, this was a matter of life and death. Other patients had family members who couldn't afford to live in Pasadena and had to move hundreds of miles away. These patients and their families struggled with childcare and caregiving for the sick and elderly, which was usually spread among the larger family network. Affordable housing critically impacts the health of our communities.

There are ways that this zoning amendment can be written that will assure that it will work and actually produce affordable housing, and there are ways that it can be written that will assure that it will not work. For example, if the amendment allows for sufficient density at each site, then projects will be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will work. But if it does not allow enough density at each site, then projects won't be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will be virtually useless.

There are other factors, such as the process of approval for each project, that will have bearing on whether the zoning amendment will work or not.

Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH) has addressed these factors in their letter, so I recommend that the council seriously consider what MHCH has proposed.

We desperately need more affordable housing in Pasadena. Please pass a zoning amendment that works to create more affordable housing.

Thank you.

Helen Shi Stafford, MD

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Rod Leard
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 8:51 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Rezone religious land for affordable housing

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Dear Mayor and City Council

My name is Rod Leard. I am a member of Pasadena Mennonite Church and a construction manager. I support the proposal to rezone religious land in Pasadena for affordable housing.

In my work, I often collaborate with cities, counties and other agencies who have authority over the project entitlement process. I am familiar with the challenges in obtaining the myriad permissions required to get a project off the ground.

The zoning amendment contemplated by the city can be written such that it will actually produce affordable housing - or not. For example, if the amendment allows for sufficient density at each site, then projects will be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will work. It will also be enormously helpful if entitlement to build affordable housing on church land were "by right" rather than discretionary.

Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH) has addressed these factors in their letter. I support what MHCH has proposed.

Pasadena (and all of Southern California) desperately needs more affordable housing. Please pass a zoning amendment that works to create it.

Thank you,

Rod Leard

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Bert Newton
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 8:26 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Rezoning religious land for affordable housing
Attachments: La Fuente Ministries letters to city council May 2022.pdf

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Attached are 13 letters signed by members of La Fuente Ministries, at 3700 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Pasadena (part of PazNaz Church), including two pastors, advocating to rezone churches in Pasadena so that it is feasible to build affordable housing on religious land.

--
Rev. Bert Newton
[Making Housing and Community Happen](#)

Date: 3/20/22

Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council Members,

We appreciate our city's commitment to affordable housing. As you know, one of the biggest obstacles to building affordable housing is a lack of sites. About ten churches in Pasadena desire to have affordable housing on their underutilized land. Yet none of these churches are properly zoned for this use. To make it possible for interested churches in Pasadena to provide affordable housing, we are asking the city to create a citywide religious land zoning amendment. We ask that this policy be crafted and placed on the agenda as soon as possible. We want this amendment to be "by right" since this would allow homes that folks can afford to be built much faster, and would save hundreds of thousands of dollars. The housing crisis is real and the need it urgent, evident with these statistics:

- 527 in our last homeless count
- 700 students considered homeless in PUSD
- 19% of all PCC students have experienced homelessness.

Please allow interested Pasadena congregations to serve our city in this way. We ask that this is put on the agenda and passed as soon as possible. Thanks for your consideration.

Signed

Printed name:

Address:

Cell (optional):



Rosa Candida Ramirez

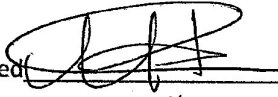
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Signed: 
Printed name: Miriam Hernandez Anales
Address: _____
Cell (optional): () _____

Date: 3/20/22.

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Signed 

Printed name: Mariana Martinez.

Address: _____

Cell (optional): _____

Date: 3/20/22

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Signed: Betsy Bohuslansky
Printed name: Betsy Bohuslansky
Address: _____
Cell (optional): _____

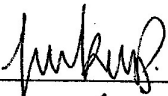
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Signed 
Printed name: Jessica Ruz Delgado
Address: _____
Cell (optional): _____

Date: 3/20/22

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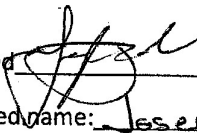
Please allow interested Pasadena congregations to serve our city in this way. We ask that this is put on the agenda and passed as soon as possible. Thanks for your consideration.

Signed

Printed name:

Address:

Cell (optional):



Joseph Perdue

Date: 3/20/22

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Signed



Printed name:

MARIE LAU BRANSON

Address:

Cell (optional):

Date: 3/20/22

Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council Members,

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Signed Nina Lau-Branson

Printed name: Nina Lau-Branson

Address: _____

Cell (optional): _____


Date: 3/20/22

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Signed: 
Printed name: Israel F Andres
Address: _____
Cell (optional): _____

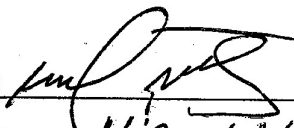
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Signed  _____
Printed name: Miguel Martinez _____
Address: _____
Cell (optional): _____

Date: March 20, 2022

Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council Members,

We appreciate our city's commitment to affordable housing. As you know, one of the biggest obstacles to building affordable housing is a lack of sites. About ten churches in Pasadena desire to have affordable housing on their underutilized land. Yet none of these churches are properly zoned for this use. To make it possible for interested churches in Pasadena to provide affordable housing, we are asking the city to create a citywide religious land zoning amendment. We ask that this policy be crafted and placed on the agenda as soon as possible. We want this amendment to be "by right" since this would allow homes that folks can afford to be built much faster, and would save hundreds of thousands of dollars. The housing crisis is real and the need it urgent, evident with these statistics:

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Signed: Susan L. Maros

Printed name: Susan L. Maros

Address: _____

Cell (optional): _____


Date: 3/19/22

Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council Members,

We appreciate our city's commitment to affordable housing. As you know, one of the biggest obstacles to building affordable housing is a lack of sites. About ten churches in Pasadena desire to have affordable housing on their underutilized land. Yet none of these churches are properly zoned for this use. To make it possible for interested churches in Pasadena to provide affordable housing, we are asking the city to create a citywide religious land zoning amendment. We ask that this policy be crafted and placed on the agenda as soon as possible. We want this amendment to be "by right" since this would allow homes that folks can afford to be built much faster, and would save hundreds of thousands of dollars. The housing crisis is real and the need is urgent, evident with these statistics:

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Signed 

Printed name: Marcos Canales

Address: _____

Cell (optional): _____

Date: 3/20/22

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Signed



Printed name:

Wanda Quintanilla Durán

Address:

Cell (optional):

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Velisa Jeffery
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 7:39 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Allow Churches to use their land for Affordable Housing

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May 18, 2022

Dear Mayor and City Council

My name is Lisa (Velisa) Jeffery I attend First African Methodist Episcopal Church.

I support the proposal to rezone religious land in Pasadena for affordable housing.

There are ways that this zoning amendment can be written that will assure that it will work and actually produce affordable housing, and there are ways that it can be written that will assure that it will not work. For example, if the amendment allows for sufficient density at each site, then projects will be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will work. But if it does not allow enough density at each site, then projects won't be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will be virtually useless.

There are other factors, such as the process of approval for each project, that will have bearing on whether the zoning amendment will work or not.

Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH) has addressed these factors in their letter, so I recommend that the council seriously consider what MHCH has proposed.

We desperately need more affordable housing in Pasadena. Please pass a zoning amendment that works to create more affordable housing.

Thank you.

Lisa (Velisa) Jeffery

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Ardelia M Wright
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 12:02 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Allow Churches to UseTheir Land for Affordable Housing

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<https://mydoit.cityofpasadena.net/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0010263> .

Dear Mayor and City Council

My name is Ardelia M. Wright I attend [your church].

I support the proposal to rezone religious land in Pasadena for affordable housing.

There are ways that this zoning amendment can be written that will assure that it will work and actually produce affordable housing, and there are ways that it can be written that will assure that it will not work. For example, if the amendment allows for sufficient density at each site, then projects will be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will work. But if it does not allow enough density at each site, then projects won't be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will be virtually useless.

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Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH) has addressed these factors in their letter, so I recommend that the council seriously consider what MHCH has proposed.

We desperately need more affordable housing in Pasadena. Please pass a zoning amendment that works to create more affordable housing.

Thank you.

Ardelia M. Wright

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

Subject: FW: Rezone Religious Land for Affordable Housing

From: Lisa Muthiah <>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 11:46 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse <publiccomment@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Rezone Religious Land for Affordable Housing

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Dear Mayor and City Council

My name is Lisa Muthiah. I live in Altadena but work/teach in Pasadena in district 1. I want my students to have access to fair housing. Many families are struggling to stay in their homes while working multiple jobs while caring for their children. Covid has only made the situation more tenuous.

I support the proposal to rezone religious land in Pasadena for affordable housing.

There are ways that this zoning amendment can be written that will assure that it will work and actually produce affordable housing, and there are ways that it can be written that will assure that it will not work. For example, if the amendment allows for sufficient density at each site, then projects will be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will work. But if it does not allow enough density at each site, then projects won't be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will be virtually useless.

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Thank you,

Lisa King Muthiah

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Gloria Newton
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 10:39 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Proposed Zoning Amendment for Affordable Housing on congregationally-owned land
- please approve!

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Dear Mayor Gordo and City Council members:

Thank you for considering the proposal to rezone congregational land for affordable housing. I am writing in support of this innovative and much needed zoning change. However, I am concerned that the proposal presented by the Planning Commission and Planning Department staff has too many restrictions as regards to density that will render the initiative useless in the effort to create more affordable housing.

I'm a homeowner and have lived in Pasadena since 1988. I have always lived in parts of our city where there is a mixture of single-family homes and apartments/cottages/ADUs, and I wouldn't have it any other way. My block of North Madison Ave is a peaceful, vibrant, economically and ethnically diverse neighborhood with a sense that we all share and belong in this little corner of the world. I'm very supportive of the rezoning initiative because it not only provides more sites for desperately-needed affordable housing, but also because it makes it possible for people in all of Pasadena's neighborhoods to enjoy the rich, diverse community that we do on our block.

I know there are people in this city and on this council who are fearful of "destroying" single-family neighborhoods by allowing more dense, multi-family housing to be built. I strongly feel that there is nothing to fear from this rezoning initiative. Over the last two years it has been carefully researched and designed to produce buildings that blend into their neighborhoods. In addition, most congregations that have enough land on which to build housing are located in areas with commercial or public/semi-public zoning, so multi-family housing wouldn't feel out-of-scale with surrounding buildings. If we are going to make any headway in addressing the purpose of the Housing Task Force, namely "desperately needed affordable, high quality, housing for all our residents," **we must remove obstacles such as incorrect zoning, density limits, and economic bias and allow projects to be built.**

If anything, what destroys communities is people being forced out of their neighborhoods because they can no longer afford to live in them.

I urge the City Council a) to recommend that the Planning Department collaborate with the Housing Department to better understand what is needed in regards to the financial feasibility of constructing affordable housing, b) to sincerely consider the letter submitted by Making Housing and Community Happen that addresses the issues that would make this proposal effective or not, and c) to ultimately pass an amendment that facilitates projects being built by eliminating the cost of time and money associated with obtaining a zoning change on a project-by-project basis. We have already waited almost 2 years for this proposal to be approved, and those in danger of losing their housing and community roots cannot wait any longer.

Thank you for your service to our city and your concern for equitable housing for all.

Best regards,
Gloria Newton

Pasadena, CA 91101
District 3

"Each time a person reaches across caste and makes a connection, it helps to break the back of caste. Multiplied by millions in a given day, it becomes the flap of a butterfly wing that shifts the air and builds to a hurricane across an ocean."--Isabel Wilkerson, *Caste*

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Griffin Hatlestad
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:12 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Rezone Religious Land for Affordable Housing

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [Griffin Hatlestad](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Griffin Hatlestad, and I work as the Operations Director at Door of Hope, a transitional housing and homelessness prevention provider working in Pasadena since 1985.

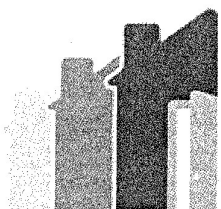
In my years working with Door of Hope, previously as a Housing Manager, I have seen firsthand the impact of the city's housing shortage. This shortage contributes to the prevalence of homelessness, and I saw daily how this shortage works to extend families' length of time spent homeless. When housing is more scarce, our clients are at a distinct disadvantage in the rental market, and are unable to locate housing even if they are financially positioned to sustain that housing independently.

As a result, I support the proposal to rezone religious land in Pasadena for affordable housing.

This zoning amendment must be written in a way that allows sufficient density to make housing development financially feasible on religious land. If this happens, this amendment has the potential to increase the supply of affordable housing in the city, slowing inflows into homelessness and allowing people experiencing homelessness to re-stabilize in permanent housing more quickly.

Please refer to Making Housing and Community Happen's letter on this topic and incorporate their feedback in this zoning amendment.

Thank you,



Griffin Hatlestad
Operations Director

626.304.9130 x 117 • doorofhope.us

[221 E. Walnut St. Suite 112, Pasadena, CA 91101](#)

Empowering families facing homelessness to transform their lives

P.S. Join us at our next Stories of Hope Tour! [Click here](#) for details.

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Rochelle Moore
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 2:07 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Larry E. Campbell; Bert Newton
Subject: Fw: Urgent Action: to the Pasadena City Council to allow churches to use their land for affordable housing

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May 18, 2022

RE: Permitting Pasadena churches to use their land for affordable housing

Dear Mayor and City Council

My name is Rev. Rochelle M. Wright-Moore. I am a member of FAME Church Pasadena.

I strongly support the proposal to re-zone religious land in Pasadena for affordable housing.

There are ways that this zoning amendment can be written that will assure that it will work and actually produce affordable housing, and there are ways that it can be written that will assure that it will not work. For example, if the amendment allows for sufficient density at each site, then projects will be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will work. But if it does not allow enough density at each site, then projects won't be financially feasible, and the zoning amendment will be virtually useless.

There are other factors, such as the process of approval for each project, that will have bearing on whether the zoning amendment will work or not.

Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH) has addressed these factors in their letter, so I recommend that the council seriously consider what (MHCH) has proposed.

We desperately need more affordable housing in Pasadena. Please pass a zoning amendment that works to create more affordable housing.

Sincerely,

Rev. Rochelle M. Wright-Moore, Associate Minister FAME Church Pasadena

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Greater Pasadena, Member;

LA COUNTY SHERIFF Dept CLERGY COUNCIL,
Altadena Station

Cc: Rev. Dr. Larry E. Campbell, Sr. Pastor

Rev. Bert Newton, MHCH

