

Varsh, Tess

From: Topher Mathers <tophermathers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 8:41 PM
To: Reyes, David; Paige, Jennifer; Varsh, Tess; Varsh, Tess
Subject: 2021-02-24 Planning Commission 5) Study Session: Zoning Code Text Amendment: "Housing on Religious Facilities Properties"

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Dear Planning Commissioners and City Planning Staff,

My name is Topher Mathers and I am a secular member of the community.

We unquestionably need more affordable housing built in Pasadena!

While I'm not inclined to religious proclivities, I understand the value religion has in fostering community. Pre-COVID my neighborhood suffered from over crowded living conditions, four person households living in one bedroom apartments and families with small children are living in garages. The pandemic has only made this worse.

Churches across Pasadena are stepping up to offer their land for affordable housing, but they need the zoning to be changed to let them do that! This zoning change will speed up the process of building the housing we need and will make the process considerably less expensive, which makes affordable housing dollars stretch further so that more can be built.

The developers who build affordable housing projects are usually nonprofits who can't afford to build low density projects and spend time and money on a lengthy bureaucratic process only to have the whole thing shot down by the neighbors. These nonprofit developers need zoning to provide sufficient density and an approval process that is not lengthy and is predictable, i.e., "by right". If the new policy does not provide these things, then it will not facilitate the affordable housing that we desperately need.

Thank you for your service to our community and for considering my comments.

Topher