

Varsh, Tess

From: Frank Scoffield <fscoffield@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 12:44 PM
To: Varsh, Tess
Subject: Item #5: Affordable Housing URGENCY

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Frank Scoffield and I am a member of Pasadena Mennonite Church, I attended Fuller Theological Seminary, and I am a resident of Pasadena's District 5.

I am writing to address item #5 on today's agenda.

We need more affordable housing in Pasadena! After graduating Fuller in 2018, I saw many Fuller students who had been long time Pasadena residents move out of the city because they could not afford housing. More than one of my close friends had to abandon his friends and faith community just because of the unaffordable housing and rental costs in this city. No clergy of a modest sized church can afford to live here without extra jobs, which inevitably places stressors on other areas of like, like family.

Now, 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 or 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.

Frank Scoffield
Pasadena Mennonite Church
Fuller Seminary, M.Div. '18