

Veronica Lopez

From: Ross, Barry <Barry.Ross@stjoe.org>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 8:33 AM
To: Veronica Lopez
Subject: GPAC Meeting

I was on the call last night and tried to provide public comment but my phone did not allow me to do so. I would like to provide this comment to be submitted for the next public session:

At Providence St. Jude Medical Center, we believe health is a human right. Everyone deserves the chance to live the healthiest life possible, especially those who are poor and vulnerable. But it's not easy to take care of your health when you don't have a safe place to call home.

Our local community health needs assessments consistently validate the impact stable housing has on health – and the unfortunate health outcomes for persons without safe housing and for those who are rent burdened and do not have sufficient income after paying their rent for food or health care. Providence St. Jude Medical Center has a long-standing commitment to bettering the communities we serve by providing resources and advocating for improved affordable housing options across Orange County for economically challenged populations.

I would like to recommend the following to the GPAC for consideration:

1. Identify and discuss what the barriers have been in the current housing element period to meet the very low income and low income RHNA targets.
2. Identify and consider for recommendations policies that will reduce the barriers to the production of more very low income and low income housing.
3. Reach out to churches and underutilized commercial site owners as part of the due diligence to locate sites for housing to determine the likelihood that these sites are truly viable for housing development over the next 8 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barry Ross

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February 1, 2021

Peter Cruz
805 Las Lomas Drive
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La Habra City Council
The Honorable Rose Espinoza, Mayor
c/o La Habra City Council
100 East La Habra Boulevard
La Habra, CA 90631

To be submitted for the public comments portion of the 4 February 2021 meeting.

To the La Habra City Council and the General Plan Advisory Committee:

[The La Habra General Plan](#) is a long-term document focused on the future of Our Caring Community expressing sound public policy for how we use the city's land. A crucial component is the Housing Element which addresses how our city accommodates future housing sites, including affordable and inclusive housing approaches.

I ask that the City of La Habra move toward addressing and locating areas of the city that significantly support the development of denser affordable housing with an all-of-the-above approach, including inclusionary housing practices above the state-required Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) units to meet La Habra's needs.

To deny inclusionary zoning is to deny the existence of historical discriminatory housing practices in La Habra and in Orange County. The City of La Habra must promote higher density zoning and mixed-use development to give La Habrans places to work and live in the same place. Concentrated and comprehensive efforts in complying with state housing laws while providing senior and veteran affordable housing would also give younger La Habrans affordable options of living near our small businesses without having to congest neighborhoods with commutes outside the city. A solution would be upzoning areas to a mixed-use status which would fulfill multiple City goals and reduce tensions in accepting development projects. Additional policies added to the General Plan must include reducing on-site parking requirements to necessitate transit use and inhibit automobile dependency. This would allow the city to identify housing units that target all income levels without alienating residents' current community needs.

I am proud that our city meets state housing goals [and is projected to do](#) so but La Habra can do better for young renters and neighbors interested in investing long-term in a home in La Habra. There are many stories I have listened to and friends who cannot afford to live in our city or cannot locate available housing who would love to live in La Habra. As a lifelong La Habran, I look forward to seeing inclusive policies that go ahead-of-the-curve on addressing our city's housing crisis built into our General Plan to

bring those residents back. There are many issues unaddressed if we maintain existing housing policies with an aging La Habran population that is paying less into our General Fund. Comprehensive housing solutions are not zero-sum and is not bad public policy.

I appreciate the work of the General Plan Action Committee in addressing these concerns and creating open forums to democratize this process. I want to thank the City of La Habra for working through COVID-19 and our current economic and public health crises in addressing the future long-term goals in housing, public safety, and infrastructure planning issues through this difficult time.

Thank you.