



SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE 10/20/2020

Safe Parking Subcommittee
Subcommittee Leader: Tom Petersmeyer
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Our goal is to open the first safe parking site in the San Gabriel Valley and expand to other sites over time. At our October 7 meeting, Tricia Keane, an attorney who has worked in private and public practice including for the City of Los Angeles Planning Committee and Safe Parking L.A. specializing in housing and people experiencing homelessness, joined the meeting. She is helping us determine what can and cannot be done regarding safe parking under existing city statutes.

Sharon Richter, the pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pasadena, is working with our committee to set up a pilot safe parking program on the parking lot of her church. She said that her church is not only ready to set up a safe parking program, they are prepared to do more than the norm by providing food, toilets and maybe a shower. Its members are willing to help. Although security is important, they are not necessarily looking for a full-time uniformed guard service to the "Parkers." Nineteen churches in Pasadena have expressed interest in safe parking, and we are exploring how to expand this program into the San Gabriel Valley, where several thousand people live in their vehicles.

Congregational Land Subcommittee
Subcommittee Leader: Phil Burns
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We were thrilled that the City Council were keenly interested in letting churches use their excess land for affordable housing. They had many questions but unanimously voted to direct the Planning Department Staff to study this and come back with recommendations for an ordinance. We're expanding our work by exploring a possible partnership with Jubilee Fund. We're setting up systems so that our professionals can be paid with the \$100,000 Chan Zuckerberg Grant and the \$20,000 Reissa Grant. We've been meeting with new churches interested in using their excess land for affordable housing. We're also reaching out to possible development partners for New Life Church, which has a proposal for 52 units of affordable housing. At a conference in NY where I spoke last Saturday I was very pleased to listen in a panel whereby several of the Black pastors now have hundreds of units of affordable housing on their property using many of our same protocols—such as 50% of the Area Median Income. This was all very encouraging and affirming!

ASHA Subcommittee
Subcommittee Leader: Anthony Manousos
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The Affordable/Supportive Housing Advocates has worked hard over the past two years to persuade the City Council to approve affordable housing at the Civic Center. This week the City Council made the historic decision to choose National Core's proposal for 112 units of affordable housing for seniors, with 10% set aside for those experiencing homelessness. The City staff will now enter into an exclusive negotiating agreement (ENA) with National Core and come back in six months with a deal for the City to finalize. We are proud of our city for affirming that people in deluxe, low-income and supportive housing can live side-by-side in harmony and dignity. We hope that other parts of our city as well as other cities will be inspired by this example.

Councilmember John Kennedy praised Mayor Tornek for taking the risk and showing leadership two years ago when he first proposed housing our homeless neighbors at the Civic Center. Most of the Council didn't think this was a great idea at first, but we at MCHC were thrilled by the Mayor's proposal. We mobilized churches with prayer vigils at the site and other public support, and the Council finally decided to do what we the people wanted. That's how democracy is supposed to work. With God's help, and with this victory under our belt, we will move forward to advocate for other much needed affordable housing measures, such as an overlay zone enabling churches to build affordable and supportive housing on their excess land.



Liaison Membership Network
Liaison Coordinator: Bert Newton
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The goal of the Liaison Membership Network is to have an ongoing, trained, ethnically, and economically diverse network of 60 liaison churches to form housing justice teams by 2025. These teams will advocate to promote and pass just polices and approve affordable housing developments in Pasadena and the surrounding areas.

Currently, we have over 20 congregations in our congregational liaison network. A liaison attends our Monthly Housing Justice Educational Forums, bringing others from their congregation, and rallies their congregation for specific campaigns to write emails and submit comments at city council meetings. Liaisons can also organize educational events in their congregation.

Each member congregation also contributes a small annual donation to Making Housing and Community Happen.

Recently, liaison churches were instrumental in the successful campaign to build affordable housing in the civic center and in pushing foreword the campaign to change zoning so that religious institutions can build affordable housing. Through this network, we are deepening our roots in the community and building the power we need to transform this city.

North Fair Oaks Empowerment Initiative
Community Organizer: Gary L. Moody
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My name is Gary L. Moody and I was hired on September 25th to be a community organizer with the North Fair Oaks Empowerment Initiative. I have lived in this community all my life. The NOFEI is about connecting with local residents to make their dreams a reality. Our main activity has been to connect with churches that want to build affordable housing on their excess land and get an overlay zone passed so churches can build affordable housing on their property. I've had one-one-one with church leaders, gone on a neighborhood walk with Jill to talk with business owners directly. We met with the Day Care Center, Repair Shop, and a Mexican restaurant. Minority-owned businesses are struggling because of Co-vid and are very concerned about an illegal marijuana dispensary next to their business. We met with people who could help create jobs for this community ex: installing solar panels or planting trees. The motto of our Initiative is "Beautify, not gentrify."