

DC Needs Inclusionary Zoning Now

Testimony of Joseph L. Paul, President of Home Roots Foundation, to Office of Zoning, July 25, 2005

Most housing in the District has fast become unaffordable. Soon, virtually all housing will be unaffordable to the teachers, firefighters, police officers, civil servants and others who work in our city. Already, an alarming number of long-time residents have been displaced from their neighborhoods because of lack of affordability. With further development in the pipelines, we can be certain that this trend will only continue and get worse.

Urgent action is needed from this office and our elected officials. Enacting Inclusionary Zoning in the District represents a monumental chance for the leaders to positively respond to a primary concern of the people. The current need for affordable housing is, needless to say, dire. A crisis situation demands an immediacy and decisiveness in action; yet, the Office of Planning has not presented a timely suitable Inclusionary Zoning plan over the past several years.

Inclusionary Zoning laws in our city should be clear and straightforward. That is, the language should be constructed in a way that leaves no room for loopholes or any ambiguities that would work against the effort to increase the level of affordable housing.

Thus it is prudent and opportune to pass the version recommended by the Movement for Inclusionary Zoning.

Thank you,

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 04-33
EXHIBIT NO. 125

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