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Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 6:50 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Housing Elements Committee

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Good evening Commissioners, I have significant concerns about the content, spirit, and process being suggested by the Housing Element Update Committee regarding housing in Davis.

Housing is a complex matter facing most communities throughout the United States. Whether it is housing folks who are unhoused to safe affordable housing in general to having sufficient housing for growing communities. This cannot be resolved by a few people over five meetings.

I am interested in how Minneapolis has worked to be inclusive of the community, provided education regarding housing needs, sought common ground and equitable solutions. Their housing committee meet with the community over a hundred times and reached consensus with nearly 200 meetings total. While this number of meetings can surely sound daunting, my point is this Update Committee is no where close to having sufficient information to approach the Commission, the Council, or the Community. A complex topic requires thoughtful concepts after taking the time to have perspective.

Having just experienced a test of our democratic process and ideals on the national level, this committee's suggestion to just bypass Measure J (now D) is disrespectful of the voting process. Measure D, as well as the 1% growth limit should be honored or legitimately changed by Davis voters. Certainly not negated by a ten-person committee.

While I fully agree and personally am affected by the high cost of housing in Davis, I must bring up the elephant in the room. UC Davis. The university's intention to grow is no secret. And they have shown little to no regard to where their students are housed. Yes, there is now an MOU between the City of Davis and UCD. However, UCD is no where close to closing the gap on housing. And even less in tune with the diversity of housing needs for the vast array of students. Students with families, students who want or need to have cars, pets, significant others... How can the Housing Elements Committee or any other group truly make headway on housing when the university can grow without constraints or concern where the students live?

I am old enough to note the recycled Republican ideology of deregulation in these suggestions. Without even a pretense of care for the values of the Davis community, these suggestions line the pockets of developers and cater to big business - UCD. Even the suggestion to eliminate parking minimums is an old ploy that denies access to any people physically unable to walk or bike. Without an adequate public transit system, what are the assumptions being made here?

For true and sustainable change to the housing market in Davis, community collaboration with the goal of equitable solutions is needed. Not creating a ministerial process. This takes time. And puts the benefits towards maintaining the values that make Davis desirable rather than lining developers' pockets.

Please send these suggestions back to the drawing board.

Thank you.

Catherine Keller

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Sent from my iPad