

For Immediate Release 4/29/20

The Asbury Park Affordable Housing Coalition (APAHC), an independent, grass roots directly democratic community group of residents working with the city to create a affordable housing ordinances for the entire city, wishes to respond to some of the comments and questions made in the last council meeting on 4/23/20

1 . In this current process, the city provided a full open participation to all residents with the drafting of this affordable housing plan. It went through the planning board twice and it is also has been part of the master plan for affordable housing, which has also been made public multiple times.

2. There was no particular preference to please any developer on the part of APAHC but to try to create a diverse plan for the entire city of Asbury Park.

3. This, the final process of passing these ordinances, coincidentally occurred during the pandemic, but it has taken three years and many public meetings to get to this point, as a city we can't wait any longer to make sure affordable housing is in stone, especially during COVID-19. Plus we feel that most people have phones and can easily call into the meeting, this is even more accessible than having to physically go to a city council meeting for some.

4. It was said that this affordable housing plan is going to create ghetto's, but in fact, this plan is doing the opposite. This plan makes sure there is mixed affordable income all over the city and not just in one place. This plan will make Asbury Park more inclusive by welcoming people of all ethnicities and incomes all over the city not just in one place.

We have worked with the City of Asbury Park on an affordable housing plan for over the last three years as the process has had its ups and

downs. The city has been transparent in the open public process on updating the community on the development of this plan. The APAHC has been there to give our input and advice and the city constantly worked to make sure our voices were heard in this affordable housing process. We have injected solutions to make this plan the best that it could possibly be for the time being, knowing there could be more we can do in the future, but that at this time this is the best possible plan to save residents that are being pushed out of Asbury Park. The price of creating diversity in our community is that there will be sacrifices for some and that not everyone one will be happy. But, it is our intention to make Asbury Park as diverse as possible and we feel that it has been accomplished with this plan, and we endorse the passage of this plan in totality. We would encourage any resident who is interested in fighting for more housing in the waterfront area to join us because we feel that all areas need to sacrifice and stand together to create a more healthy diverse city for all. Thank you council members for the hard work you have done on these ordinances and the support to make Asbury Park a more equitable city.

Please Contact us with any questions at Derek.minno.bloom@gmail.com