

Dear City of Olympia;

In examining the 2 presentations at <http://olympiawa.gov/city-government/codes-plans-and-standards/housing-code-amendments.aspx>, I have major concerns as follows. Notably, I dislike Missing Middle and state-level bills (e.g., HR 1923) that promote high-density, market-rate housing (especially for Seattle transplants) at the expense of poorer, homegrown people that are becoming increasingly homeless since the Great Recession. Especially in this COVID-19 and climate-change era, we don't need further clogging of I-5 and our neighborhoods with rich King County people who'd rather live here, but still work up north.

The paradigm of ever-expanding development on a finite planet is ill-fated, especially forcing neighborhoods to change to accommodate more "yuppy" transplants. This doesn't meet Growth Management Act requirements and would change Olympia from being a small, close-knit city into a mess similar to Surrey, BC, Canada, where my son lives. There, efforts to promote multi-family housing have led to traffic snarls; gang violence; loss of forests, parks, and salmon; and overcrowded schools that require students to take classes in trailers. Forcing us residents to take displaced renters into our houses is akin to what happen to Russia after the Bolshevik Revolution, i.e., it smacks of Communism.

Rather, now that we're in a long-term pandemic and entering another recession, the focus should be on helping homegrown businesses stay afloat, to preserve our way of life. And if the homeless situation isn't dealt with, viral outbreaks could come back to haunt the rest of us. Too often, Olympia is subsidizing market-rate housing as poorer tenants (including our retired folk) are thrown out to accommodate Central Sound transplants who are willing to pay higher rents. This isn't social justice, and Olympia isn't doing enough to stop endless-rent increases that hurt homegrown citizens in rental situations. Hence, it's time to rethink city-development planning to not make the same mistakes that's bankrupting California. That is, there needs to be subsidies for low-income housing but NOT market-rate housing, the latter an example of what I call "reverse Robin Hood socialism".

Thanks in advance for considering my concerns.

-Bob Vadas, Jr.  
Aquatic ecologist, Ph.D.