

Subject: Gentrification

To the City of Olympia Decision makers,

Now that I have managed to crawl out of what was likely COVID-19 at home alone, to finally hear just yesterday that I am negative in the test for it, I am hearing that the City of Olympia is proceeding with their plans for Gentrification in order to "create more housing" that could possibly bring the high prices of housing down. One council member told me it would make Olympia much more affordable for all. Pie in the Sky.

Apparently the comment period on this was just released, and only provides the citizens 2 weeks to respond. This is irresponsible to the people. Forget the fact that we are in a Pandemic, and some of us are really struggling to just breathe or the welfare of family and friends who have been ill. This disastrous move by the City is disrespectful for it's citizens.

My perspective from living in one of the most dense cities, San Francisco, for 25 years, has definitely shaped my opinions on your false belief system. The price of housing for new construction will never be affordable for the bottom workers or unhoused contrary to what we are told. I watched as SF tore down neighborhoods in the Mission District to create the same units you are proposing, knocking the Hispanic groups and low income people out of their current homes. There are now glitzy restaurants and coffee shops in place of a vibrant colorful community with home businesses and shops. I suppose for those that care how things "look" this is great. I care about the lives of ordinary people. I care about people's current homes retaining value. It is really hard to live somewhere when people up in higher units are always looking down at you.

San Francisco has some of the highest rents and housing costs on the west coast, that have never gone down despite crowding in more high rises. There is never enough parking there as a result. My day would always involve searching for parking spots even in my own neighborhood. Very common to have to walk 8 blocks home.

Olympia's land grab will be on to cram high rise ADUs with no parking, that exist behind or alongside homes, that can be sold as individual units. The land grab will be on to buy little modest homes on the Eastside or Olympia High neighborhoods, tear them down and build a monstrosity, displacing renters, and putting pressure on parking, schools and City services.

I would suggest that this comment period be extended so that citizens can actually know it is going on in this time of isolation and sadness for our country as we are focused on CV-19 and how we will pay our mortgage. Politico just came out and said even Congress is entirely focused on this virus and cannot do any other tasks right now.

To do otherwise is predatory for getting your own way vs the sentiments of the people.

I stand in opposition to DNS for Housing Options, being pushed by the City of Olympia. You say that you will not displace anyone. But those that buy these small places up and raze them will. Those that buy those small homes on a larger lot with a small garden and fruit trees will raze the whole area flat. Your SEPA states that you will not do this which is a joke. It is the speculators that will do it.

Beyond words and still beyond a full breath since getting ill on 3/13.

Jana Wiley