

January 3, 2018

To: Chairman High and the Affordable Housing Committee and Staff
Fr: Katherine Austin, Public at Large Member
Re: Formation of a Subcommittee to explore alternate SDC prices to encourage the creation of smaller more affordable home construction by the private sector

To my fellow Committee members, I would like to suggest that we form a small subcommittee to discuss options that could be considered with regard to the formulation of SDCs. By adjusting the cost of SDCs in such a way to encourage the creation of smaller units of housing by the private sector, we could have an opportunity to potentially increase the availability of smaller and thus relatively more affordable housing. I'm suggesting this as a way to incentivize private sector creation of housing that could address the needs of those at the middle income level who do not qualify for subsidized housing and cannot afford current market rate housing.

I am fully aware of the complexity of the formulation of SDCs and that there is much that I personally do not know about the subject. I do know however, from my own experience in City Government as well as in designing this type of smaller home that there are opportunities for Cities to use ordinances and fees to encourage the construction of certain types of housing that meets the needs of its citizens.

Because this is a complex subject, I feel it needs further in-depth exploration by a subcommittee willing to put in some extra time with staff to determine possible recommendations to the full committee and if agreed upon by the committee to then recommend them to the City Council. I am willing to serve on such a subcommittee. I would like to work with some of my fellow committee members on this and reach out to a range of stake holders to get as many ideas as possible. I'm hoping that some of you might be willing to join me in this effort.

I would like to place this item on our upcoming agenda for January 10th. I hope you will allow this addition to our agenda.

Sincerely,

Katherine Austin, Public at Large Member
Affordable Housing Committee
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