



Reflections on Faithful Housing Forum 10.27.24

What thinking does this spark for you?

- St. Paul's owns two parking lots on prime real estate in downtown Burlingame. Is that the "highest use" for this land?
- A few years (7-8) ago, the Vestry considered the use of our land (parking lots/nursery, etc.). Can we consider housing? One for the Rector.
- Hmm...Diocesan (consolidation/contribution) of land, services, etc.
- Makes me hopeful for a Burlingame that doesn't have to grow into NYC but just grow a little bit. Since we were finally able to move into a single family home neighborhood, I am grateful for the consideration of those communities when planning high density housing buildings.
- When built, how to fill units up? Timelines? Waitlists? All housing is good but there is no use if we cannot fill the unit/sustain.
- This conversation makes me feel like there is much that needs to be done but people don't always have the time for that. Those who can't afford to live here can't wait for a huge building to be built.
- Is "fixing" affordable housing a little like fixing plastic bag use? Well intentioned but better left to market forces?
- Sparks that: the work we do with LiveMoves and Samaritan House helps so many families stay housed.
- It seems like the issue as it's being addressed will not change the reality that our own children will not, in most cases, be able to live in this area, let alone all the workers who also would benefit from shorter commutes.

What surprised, shocked or was an "ah ha" for you?

- Ah ha - that surplus land act is creating a lot of new affordable housing units.
- Cascade of seniors coming...
- Growth in children in Burlingame...



- Grateful for the comprehensive housing plans, including market rate. I am heartened to hear that will help stabilize rent/prices. When my family rented, I lived in constant fear that prices would rise. We were able to stay but so many families we knew left. Am hopeful for stabilization and fewer people needing to move away.

How might St. Paul's play a role in the solution?

- Tell success stories about the impact of affordable housing
- Could St. Paul's look at higher use of its property?
- We could volunteer with "Rebuilding Together Peninsula" (housing preservation)
- We could volunteer to help with services to those living in hotels converting to affordable housing - Ramada Inn - SSF - when it opens in 2025.
- We can volunteer to work with Habitat for Humanity in San Mateo County. They help build affordable housing.
- Think/Pray about resource/property needs.
- St. Paul's can help by hosting more of these types of events! Getting folks to think deeply about local, (and state, national) issues is important and useful!
- Help to counter NIMBY - SMC
- Wrap around services here?
- Public transit from here?
- St. Paul's can be a part of the solution by helping advocate/publicize about how the larger community can help, similar to today's event.

Other Reflections?

- Need to raise minimum wage so people can make a reasonable living
- Can Burlingame churches combine available assets to produce housing for seniors/retirees/families citywide, etc? How can we inventory that?
- 75% open space vs. 25% land for development
- Hourly workers - 17% increase over 30 years
- Urban Planning → solutions
- Vision - branding LIH