

McNally, Stephanie

From: Jessica <jessi0216@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 9:37 PM
To: Planning and Zoning
Subject: Opposed to more multi family dwellings/ public housing

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Dear members of the board,

I am writing after seeing a new site being put up urging residents to write in about taking away the cap and allowing more multi family dwellings or public housing. I am writing because I am against this agenda that is being pushed. I have lived in Westport Public Housing for almost 9 years now but have grown up here all my life as my mother was raised here and my grandparents lived here until they passed away. While I do feel Westport is not an affordable town to live in, I don't feel over crowding it with public housing is the solution. More moderately priced houses for sale would be better instead of multi million dollar homes. In Hales court alone (where I live) there are currently 6 vacant houses. One house I have watched has been vacant since around December 2018! The units I know are empty are 3 one bedroom units, a 3 bedroom and 2 two bedroom units. If they are spoken for already I don't know, but I do know they have been sitting vacant for a long time. One being almost two years now. So there is a huge push for more when we don't even fill what we currently have , and this is only one of the developments of the four. The unit attached to mine has been empty six months. Westport Housing also runs Fairfield housing and they are not equipped for even the amount of units they oversee currently. There are one to two maintenance workers for both towns. This means it takes awhile for someone to come repair something and probably why units are vacant so long because it's rare these two men have time to come and fix the units up. The unit next to me I saw people for a week or two then empty for months then come in for another week and then nothing. How would adding more housing help the people who already live here? Shouldn't our town consider quality over quantity? As I mentioned I've seen Westport housing throughout my whole life. The housing today is not the housing decades ago. I've watched drug deals transpire, found used condoms and drug paraphernalia in the community parking lots, watch countless people stay here illegally while not on a lease, watched young children not even of school age roam around unsupervised, have been threatened a few times by adults who were drunk or high and seen many police blotters about prostitution, a man exposing himself, etc.

On Facebook a woman in town had asked opinions on housing (clearly with an agenda for it because she didn't like my negative remarks) and when the issue of illegal tenants came up, one of your p&z members actually stated that who are we to tell single women they can't move their boyfriends in. She said breaking a lease was ok! Even though these are income based units and adding a member would raise your income and violate your lease.

After one year of Hales court being fully filled with the new homes the housing cut off use for tenants to use our outside spikets for water because it "cost" too much and it was their water. Yet tenants who aren't paying to live here use the water inside for free. And I've watched people living here driving Audi's and BMW's or have multiple vehicles for one person.

I 100% understand the desire to make Westport a more affordable town to more people however the density of these complexes mixed with the activity does not make them something that represents Westport at all. I have lived here my whole life. Westport once was a small town where everyone knew eachother. My last name is still well known in Westport because back then people came from here and stayed here. Now it is filled with multi million dollar mansions and these same people who came in and tore up the small town with these monster sized homes now want to further destroy Westport by filling it with complexes and apartments

everywhere. We are a small town, not a city. And unless we want to continue to lose this small town until it is no longer then we need to stop. Just in the past ten years there have been more apartments going up all over town and still more being built. So clearly it is never enough for the people behind this. And as far as people saying Westport is too white , we need more diversity etc, to say public housing is the way to get color is actually racist because it's saying the only way non whites can live here is if we make cheap housing for them. If we need to put a cap on anything it should be on tearing down smaller homes and making those affordable for families to buy and live here.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I just wanted to make sure, because most people I'm sure stay silent on these matters, that it was voiced that when people speak up like this "Westport Forward" Website and movement, that that is not how the majority feels. And if you actually polled the people who live in public housing and the homes who's property is near it and affected by it, and people weren't having to worry about eviction or retaliation then you may see a clearer view of what it really is like here. A lot of people are for more housing because it wouldn't be in their neighborhood or directly impacting them. But the housing on the post rd (sasco creek / hidden brook) has actually been called by a lot of people particularly it's residents, Little Bridgeport for years now because of the crime going on in there.

Thank you,

Jessica Purcell

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