

Tinti, Elisa

From: Hirsch. Michele
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa; Shaut, Andrea
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Affordable Housing & Pilot Program

From: Scott Denny <sdenny512@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 5:51 PM
To: Shaut, Andrea <ashaut@kingston-ny.gov>; Pasti, Sara <Ward1@kingston-ny.gov>; Frankel, Carl <Ward2@kingston-ny.gov>; Scott-Childress, Reynolds <Ward3@kingston-ny.gov>; Worthington, Rita <Ward4@kingston-ny.gov>; Muhammad, Naimah <Ward5@kingston-ny.gov>; Dennison, Bob <Ward6@kingston-ny.gov>; Andrews, Drew <Ward7@kingston-ny.gov>; Schabot, Steven <Ward8@kingston-ny.gov>; Hirsch. Michele <Ward9@kingston-ny.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Affordable Housing & Pilot Program

Good afternoon Madam President, and Common Council Members,

I am writing you to express my concerns regarding the proposed Pilot Programs, in exchange for an extremely minimal amount of affordable housing, and the minimal criteria needed by Developers, and Landlords to qualify.

As we know, the current availability of affordable housing in the City of Kingston is virtually non existent, and the definition thereof, is certainly unrealistic, and unaffordable for the majority of the native Residents of Kingston.

We must acknowledge, that our City certainly is in a housing Crisis, upto and including a tremendous number of homeless residents, without a single viable solution having been discussed, or suggested.

As reported by the Daily Freeman:

The City's new Zoning Code, adopted in August, requires developers of projects between seven to 19 need to have 10% of those units designated affordable housing. Such housing would be affordable to people making 80% or less of the area median income or 120% of the area median income, respectively.

Given the significant benefits to Developers, I personally cannot understand, nor do I see how Bartek Starodaj, sees 25 year PILOTS beneficial to our City, our Residents, (the Councils Constituents) of Kingston, and the property owners, whose Taxes will most certainly increase, to cover the shortfalls, with the largest impact likely to land on each and every Taxpayer in the KCSD.

Before moving forward, I would ask that the Common Council pause to consider the actual figures that can, and will directly effect the vast majority of the City of Kingston Residents, including each and every Taxpayer, and Tenants as well.

Current PILOT Proposal:

New projects with 20 to 49 units need to have 10% of units designated affordable housing and 5% designated as workforce units. Projects with 50 or more units would need to have 10% of units designated affordable and 10% of units designated workforce housing and projects with bonus stories need to have 20% of total units affordable and 50% of the total area of each bonus story would need to be affordable.

Ie: How is there a benefit for our Residents, when to receive the PILOT, the Developer only needs to offer as little as 10% Affordable Housing, or as low as only 2 Units out of 20.

Please note, entering the 2024 Calendar year, the NYS Minimum Wage, will remain unchanged at \$15.00 per hour, which is absolutely not a liveable wage in the City of Kingston, for the vast number of Residents.

Consider the Following:

The popular standard for budgeting rent is to follow the 30% rule, where you spend a maximum of 30% of your monthly income before taxes (your gross income) on your rent. This has been a rule of thumb since 1981, when the government found that people who spent over 30% of their income on housing were "cost-burdened."

Based on the standard used since 1981, a couple earning minimum wage full time would GROSS \$4800.00 per month, which would allow \$1440.00 per month for Rent, before Groceries, Automobile Insurance, exorbitant Central Hudson bills, Spectrum, Car Payments, etc. etc., and even with a 1 Bedroom Apartment, if you were lucky to find one, are currently renting north of \$2000.00 per month, most requiring first month, last month, and security.

As per Mayor Noble, during one of our Debates, he acknowledged that our number one Industry in the City of Kingston, is the Hospitality Business, with a required Minimum Wage of Tipped Food Service Workers at \$9.45 per hour, and regardless of Tips, in most cases it is not a liveable wage.

I thank everyone in advance, for taking the time to hopefully pause before moving forward, and signing anything into Law, that could seriously harm each and every Resident / Constituents in Kingston.

Given the magnitude of our Housing Crisis, I believe that the Council may wish to consider a Public hearing, as the current situation is extremely poor, and actually desperate.

Thank you all for your time,

Scott E Denny

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Hirsch, Michele
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa; Shaut, Andrea
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Kingston and Sokyriany, Ukraine

Another public comment.

From: Tim Distel <timdistelpublic@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 1:39 AM
To: Noble, Steve <SNoble@kingston-ny.gov>; Worthington, Rita <Ward4@kingston-ny.gov>; Pasti, Sara <Ward1@kingston-ny.gov>; Frankel, Carl <Ward2@kingston-ny.gov>; Scott-Childress, Reynolds <Ward3@kingston-ny.gov>; Muhammad, Naimah <Ward5@kingston-ny.gov>; Hirsch, Michele <Ward9@kingston-ny.gov>; Dennison, Bob <Ward6@kingston-ny.gov>
Cc: Verspoor, Roy <rverspoor@kingston-ny.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Kingston and Sokyriany, Ukraine

Mr. Mayor and Members of the Laws and Rules Committee,

I want to express my gratitude for your support to establish a Sister/Twin City with Sokyriany. After spending the first 5 months of the war in Ukraine, I believe their stories of heroism and hardship in our media are, if anything, understated.

During the American Revolution, other nations showed their support during our time of need. So I hope the Kingston Common Council will pass this resolution and be the first in the Hudson Valley to carry on that important democratic tradition regarding Ukraine.

Benefits of Sister/Twin City:

- Cultural and knowledge sharing. (For example between local schools and colleges.)
- Raising awareness and providing a channel for private citizens/organizations who want to help.
- Providing hope to Ukrainians defending their lives and independence.
- And more.

Why Sokyriany?:

-**Proactive:** Mayor Kozak has been very proactive during this crisis both in terms of aid work and regarding Sister/Twin City exchanges. During my second visit to Sokyriany, he invited the head of the Chernivtsi Regional Council, Oleksiy Boyko to discuss the matter. As a result, his office has joined the effort and will help other interested communities in the Hudson Valley connect with potential counterparts in the Chernivtsi Oblast.

Location/Supply Hub: Sokyriany is on the border of Moldova and it is also close to Romania. This element has helped them serve as a supply hub to other areas of Ukraine. For example, the tourniquets and other supplies I dropped off with Mayor Kozak's office earlier this year, were quickly delivered to eastern Ukraine.

Contact info. for the Ulster County based Ukrainian charity:

Peter Kosciolk, President of the local chapter of the Ukrainian American Youth Association:

Email: petro@cym.org

Phone: (845) 709-1646

Please reach out to Mr. Kosciolek and consider highlighting his organization's efforts in any potential press release for locals who may want to help Ukraine.

Thank you again,

Tim

Tim Distel

Facebook: @TimDistelPublic

[\(845\)-418-2616](tel:(845)4182616)

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From The Desk Of Ellen Difalco
66 Glen Street
Kingston NY 12401
difalcobrandy@aol.com

TO: Finance Committee Members
Chairman Reynolds Scott-Childress
Ward 6 Alderman Robert Dennison
Ward 7 Alderman Bryant (Drew) Andrews
Ward 8 Alderman Steve Schabot
Ward 9 Alderman Michele Hirsch

FROM: Ellen DiFalco

DATE: December 5, 2023

RE: Request to Add Consultant to Common Council Budget

Having listened intently to the Finance meeting of November 16 and Caucus on December 4, where Council President Andrea Shaut requested a new “Consultant” position to aide the council in gathering research to ensure members are “well-prepared” is beyond unacceptable. (The definition of a **Consultant** is “a person who provides expert advice professionally”.)

A “Legislative Assistant/Aide” had been hired in 2017 and during that time this individual was guided by the former Communications and Community Engagement Director. A scope of duties was prepared as a non-competitive position by Civil Service. Now, several years later, you are trying to reinvent the same position to carry the weight of responsibilities aldermen should be doing on their own.

If the City Clerk or Corporation Counsel Offices had an indexing database to research resolutions with a simple key stroke, you would be able to find documents in a timely manner on your own. It's a simple fix and one that the County Legislature Office has used. Perhaps the IT Director could assist in this endeavor. Resourcefulness to locate archived posting of resolutions, public hearings and other meetings is time consuming because your system is inadequate. Perhaps if a new program were developed to assist and guide you in researching documents, it would prove beneficial to everyone.

Among other responsibilities and other smaller tasks of this "consultant" to be fine-tuned, is to track obituaries. Quite frankly, this is a waste of taxpayers' money when any and all of these assignments could be assigned in-house and inter-departmentally without spending \$15,000. In addition, the voucher signing policy was instituted many years ago and one that simply doesn't work. It would behoove you to revisit the policy and simplify procedures for submitting vouchers to sign off on.

By all means be "more proactive and engaged" as an alderman. Your constituents depend on it.

Thank you.

Submitted by
Ellen DiFalco