

HCDC Public Comment Sign Up 5/16/23

4/29/23–Deb Bailey–DeConversion Tax–In favor, with grandfather clause

As an Evanston resident for over 30 years, I think affordable housing is an important goal for us to have as a community. However, as an Evanston homeowner whose house was originally a single family house and was converted into a two-flat in the late 1920's/early 1930's, I think an exception should be made for situations like mine. If and when I choose to sell my house, the population of potential buyers would be limited if they couldn't convert the house back into a single-family again. I knew when I bought my house 30 years ago, I could turn it back into a single family house if I so choose. And there are a number of houses in my neighborhood that were original single-family houses, went through a period of being turned into two-family houses, and are now back to being single-family houses. I understand and support a ban on having buildings that were originally built as duplexes (or triplexes!) converted into single family homes. But there should be an exemption for houses that were originally single family homes and were converted into two-family homes.

5/16/23–Jen Peterson–RLTO–In Favor

Hello, My name is Jen Peterson and I have lived in Evanston for 12 years. I'm glad to see our city tackling rental disparity issues and hope that we will lead the way in making sure that we have housing available to all of our residents. This year, as rents have skyrocketed, I have seen buildings torn down in favor of luxury rentals and I personally know families who have had to move because landlords increased rents significantly. These are families who have lived here for years and now are "priced out" of our community - their community. We talk a good game around wanting to be a diverse, fair, and equitable community but when it comes to housing (and a few other things), we are far from it. When people who work in our community, cannot afford to continue to live here because there are not strong enough rules around rent increases, evictions, deposits, and other fees, then we are doing it wrong.