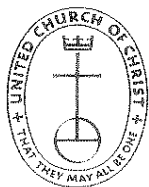


R-13**CORRESPONDENCE - Pastor Douglas Leifi**

The Second Samoan Congregational Church-U.C.C.
 655 Cedar Ave. - Long Beach CA. 90802-1222 · (562) 628-9282
 www.secondsamoan.org

October 29, 2013

Honorable Mayor and Council Members
 Civic Center Plaza
 333 West Ocean Blvd., 14th floor
 Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Affordable Housing Stock
2014-2021 Housing Element

Mayor Foster and City Council Members:

As you know, housing is such a basic building block of a healthy community. With 47% of Long Beach renters (130,000 people) spending more than 35% of their income on rent, it is clear that there is a great need for affordable housing. Housing Long Beach has done some research and has suggested that we do two things: 1) Build more affordable units and 2) Improve the livability of the existing housing stock. Adopting the community's platform for inclusion in the 2014-2021 Housing Element will create new affordable housing. This in turn will create opportunities for families to lead healthy lives, improved education, safety, economic and health outcomes for all Long Beach residents.

We are writing in regard to the community's platform for inclusion in the upcoming Housing Element. We stand with Housing Long Beach and other faith and community groups in urging you to adopt a Housing Element that includes a Mixed Income Housing Ordinance, identification of local funds for affordable housing and a Rent Trust Account Program. We believe it is in the interest of Long Beach communities for the Planning Commission and City Council to adopt these essential yet modest policies to ensure quality housing for our workforce and residents, and to improve the overall quality of life for everyone in our city.

We have families that commute from Compton, Anaheim and North Long Beach because they cannot find housing around the Church. And because they commute into the City, they are disconnected from what happens around the church. But they would love an opportunity to own downtown and contribute to the welfare of our city.

Blessings,


 Pastor Douglas Leifi (Rose of Sharon)

cc: Pat West, City Manager

