



Interfaith Initiative for Social Justice

One of the key issues of social justice revolves around affordable housing especially in locales near where people work. With that in mind, the Interfaith Initiative for Social Justice supports the efforts of Haywood Street Community Development to develop such housing near the campus of Haywood Street Congregation.

As noted in their proposal, “[they] are proposing a multi-family development of 45 one, two and, three-bedroom apartments Residents, including adults and single mothers with children, would fall into one of three income brackets as defined by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The highest earners would make up to \$42,000 annually (80% Area Median Income). Think medical laboratory technician, fast food restaurant manager, or delivery driver. Middle-income earners would make up to \$30,000 annually (60% AMI). Think hotel clerk, home health aid, childcare worker. And half of the apartments would be reserved for extremely low-income residents with individual housing choice vouchers making up to \$15,000 annually (30% AMI). If working, think day laborer, part-time bartender, entry-level manufacturing. If not, citizens on disability.”

In the Asheville area, the ability to afford living here is very difficult for many of those who work here. The opportunity to make it possible for 45 families to live in the city is not just commendable but necessary.

We applaud the foresight of this organization to make this happen and hope that others will join in support of this worthy project. Should anyone have questions, feel free to contact me at ronkatz327@gmail.com.

With gratitude,
Ron Katz
Convener, Interfaith Initiative for Social Justice

Background on the Interfaith Initiative for Social Justice:

This organization was started in 2017 as a way for members of faith communities to connect with nonpartisan organizations and others from faith communities to address a

variety of social justice issues. When appropriate, small interfaith work groups are organized to address a specific issue for a certain period of time. Since its inception, and before the pandemic started, the Initiative created a small group working on Green Energy and one on Racial Justice.

Because of the pandemic, the Initiative has focused on promoting opportunities for people to learn, get inspired, and take action on issues of social justice with appropriate partners on the front lines. This is primarily offered through an a-newsletter that comes out typically twice per month. More than 200 people affiliated with more than 30 faith communities currently subscribe.