

Craig, Sondra

From: Brian Serle <lacrosse.rabbi@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 2:02 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: ADUs

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My dear city council members, I see in the Tribune that you are considering approval of various forms of ADUs to help alleviate our housing crisis.

I have been involved in the affordable housing issue for over 10 years, including the past five years here in La Crosse. I have sat in hundreds of hours of committees about homelessness and housing issues, including the past year or two under Brian Sampson (A very dedicated and hard-working man!)

I am the president of the La Crosse jail ministry board. I'm sure you know the importance of finding a former inmate permanent housing, so they can get a job. There's a huge demand for workers in several industries here in town.

Cost of the limited housing stock here in town, rents have been accelerating way beyond any reasonable inflation factor. When I first came here about five years ago, I paid \$1000 a month to rent a few rooms at 15th and King. Those same few rooms now rent for \$1000 a room (!!) to UWL students. There are two sets of 4 rooms in that building. The total rent is probably \$8000 a month now! I headed for Onalaska when I saw that coming. How do these students afford it? I know that these older homes often need a lot of repairs and modernization. It can't be cheap for these real estate management firms.

I served a couple of years on the local committee charged with settling refugees from the Ukrainian war here in the town. Fortunately, we were able to find them affordable housing. That is quickly disappearing!

"Affordable housing" cannot just be eight or 10 discounted units on the bottom of a luxury apartment building.

In many cities across the country, ADUs and "Tiny houses" and living over a garage is often an elegant solution. They cost a fraction of other types of rental units.

I would love to see the council have a study done and investigate the successful affordable housing efforts of other cities.

We have plenty of space, even off of alleys between homes.

Good luck, have a wonderful, holiday and happy new year!

Rabbi Brian Serle

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לשלום LeShalom

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