

# Get ready for some nasty numbers

The Bethlehem Gadfly Uncategorized March 25, 2021

 Latest post in a series on *Affordable Housing* 

*“43% of Bethlehem households are cost-burdened. That’s a staggering percentage.”*

*Tina Roseberry*

ref: [Crampsie Smith Affordable Housing Task Force advances](#)

ref: [Affordable Housing has momentum](#)

What data about Bethlehem reside in your data banks?

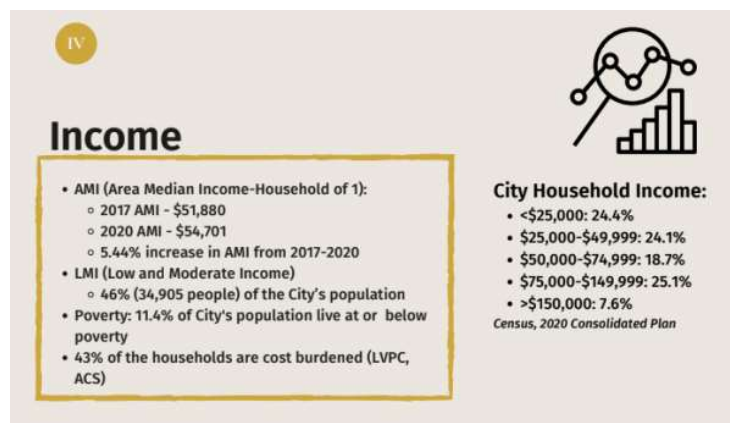
What statistics do you know that help us understand the kind of city that we are?

Let’s see . . . population c. 75,000 . . . POC c. 40% . . . budget c. \$87m . . . hmm, I’m not getting much further than that.

Well, Gadfly found the numbers laid out by the City at the affordable housing discussion by the Community Development Committee on Tuesday really quite revealing, kind of riveting actually.

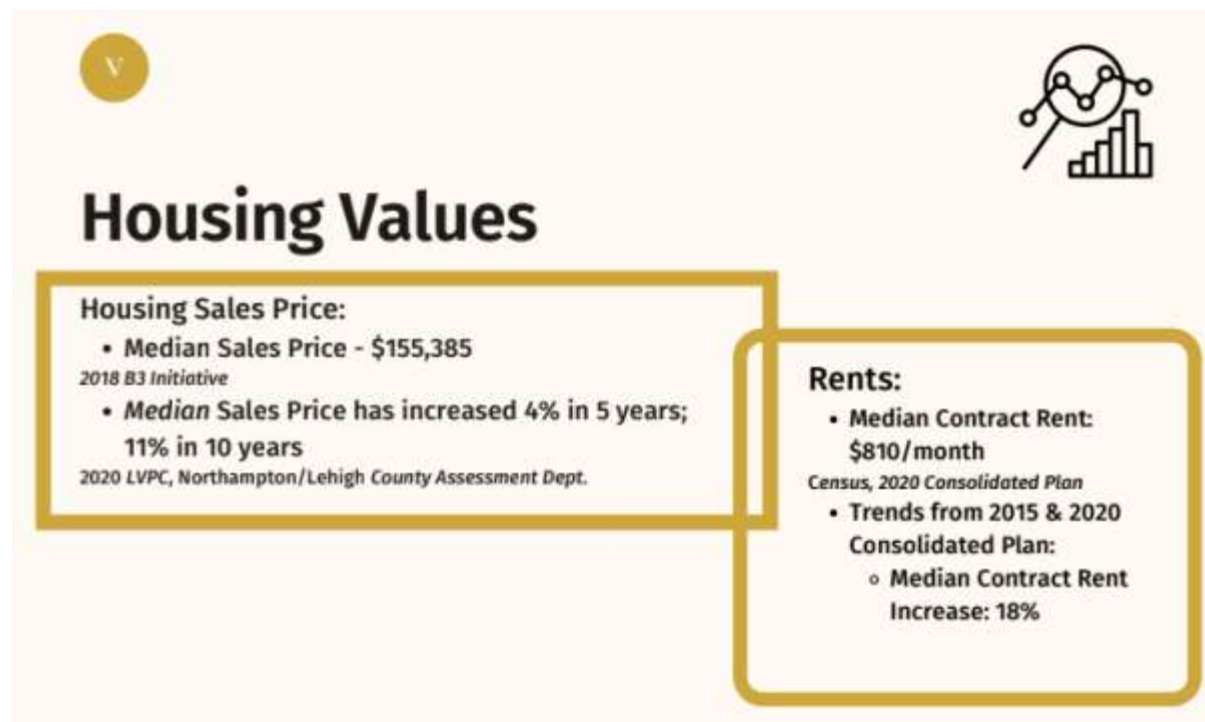
If he understands correctly, for instance, 887 apartment units were approved by the planning commission through the land development process between 2014 and 2020, and none were classed “affordable.”

Listen to the City’s Tina Roseberry expand on the following slides.



## Audio Player not available in this archive

- about 1/4 of our residents earn less than \$25,000/yr.
- about 11% live at or below poverty
- 43% of households are “cost burdened” (rent/mortgage + utilities exceeds 30% of income): a “staggering” number



- housing cost has gone up 4% in 5 years
- rents have increased 18% in 5 years

*These are some nasty numbers.*