

Here's how everybody can help protect the Southside neighborhood

[The Bethlehem Gadfly](#) [Neighborhoods, Southside](#) October 19, 2020

 Latest in a series of posts on the Southside 

Community Development Committee meeting

Thursday, October 22, 6PM

[view on YouTube](#)

call-in number: (610) 997-7963

Anna Smith is a Southside resident, full-time parent, and community activist with a background in community development and education.

Gadfly:

I'm writing to ask you and fellow Gadfly followers for your help to preserve and protect mixed-income neighborhoods with affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for families in South Bethlehem. Following two years of resident organizing and advocacy, the City of Bethlehem has proposed changes to the zoning ordinance to regulate the expansion of college student housing in south Bethlehem. After a comprehensive, community-engaged planning process, the City has finalized a proposal that is now being considered by City Council. Council has asked for community feedback on the proposal at the **October 22nd Community Development Committee meeting, scheduled for 6 pm in Town Hall, and virtually.**

Over the past two years I've been a part of a broad group of neighbors, community stakeholders, City staff, and consultants that have analyzed data, collected stories, learned about best practices from other communities, and shared thoughts on what policy changes could help south Bethlehem remain a vibrant, diverse, mixed-income community. Our City staff have recognized the importance of regulating college

student housing in our community, but the implementation of their plan is dependent upon Council's approval.

We need residents who understand what makes south Bethlehem unique and who value affordable housing opportunities for all residents **to tell Council that they support the regulation of student housing in our City.**

Can we count on you and your followers to do one or more of the following:

1. Speak at the [October 22nd Community Development Committee meeting](#) in support of the proposal (in person or via phone)
2. Email City Council members at cityclerk@bethlehem-pa.gov to express your support for the proposed zoning ordinance amendments
3. Add your name to a letter to Council from affordable housing advocates throughout our community: [CLICK HERE](#) to read and sign.

I will soon be sending you several documents justifying and detailing the plan going to Council that you can share on Gadfly.

I hope that we can count on your support for our neighborhoods!

In solidarity,
Anna

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