

# PRESS RELEASE



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Press Conference November 23 at Evanston City Hall: Local Advocates Ask City to “Walk the Talk” by Voting for Amendments to Inclusionary Housing Ordinance**

*Amendments Honor Values of Evanston, Residents and Local Groups:  
Diversity, Social Justice, Inclusion and Service*

**Evanston, IL, November 20, 2015** – Interfaith Action of Evanston, Open Communities, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and Connections for the Homeless are hosting a press conference to give kudos to the City Council for their staunch commitment in maintaining and expanding the diversity of Evanston. The groups urge them to vote “yes” on all amendments to Ordinance 60-O-15 at their upcoming meeting the same evening.

Speakers include a number of people deeply involved in improving affordable housing options in Evanston, such as:

- Alderman Peter Braithwaite
- Debra Bullock, Rector of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church & board member of Interfaith Action of Evanston
- Betty Landis, pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
- Sue Loellbach, Development Director of Connections for the Homeless
- Tracey McKeithen, Executive Director of Family Promise

Directly following the Press Conference on Monday evening, the City Council of Evanston will once again consider amendments to the city’s Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. The amendments have been under discussion since April 2015 without coming to vote. At the most recent City Council meeting, the amendments were tabled in spite of strong turnout of residents. All of those who spoke asked the Council to vote on the amendments.

The proposed amendments would expand the existing ordinance and include both rented units as well as condominiums. The amendments would increase the fee (ranging from \$75,000 to \$100,000 depending on proximity to public transportation) charged to developers who opt out of providing the affordable units. The amendments also provide incentives to developers— leeway on requirements such as height, density, and parking.

The proportion of Evanston’s housing that qualifies as affordable has dramatically decreased by [40% from 2004 to 2013, dropping from 25.9% to 15.9%](#). “The proposed amendments are solid steps in the right direction to turn the loss around that we’ve experienced over the last decade,” said The Rev. Debra K. Bullock, Rector at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church and Board Member of Interfaith Action of Evanston. She continued, “Not only does this create

opportunity for those who want to be a part of Evanston's vibrant community, it provides new opportunities to developers to create new innovative projects."

The press conference will be held on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 7:00pm at Evanston City Hall, 2100 Ridge Ave., on the west side of the building. Free parking is available.

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**About Interfaith Action of Evanston [www.interfaithactionofevanston.org](http://www.interfaithactionofevanston.org)**

Inspired by diverse faiths and shared values, Interfaith Action of Evanston brings people from forty different faith communities together to serve hungry and homeless people, pursue interfaith dialogue, and engage in advocacy that promotes social justice for those we serve.

**About Open Communities [www.open-communities.org](http://www.open-communities.org)**

Open Communities, formerly Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs, is a nonprofit organization that educates, advocates and organizes to promote just and inclusive communities in north suburban Chicago.

**About Chicago Coalition for the Homeless [www.chicagohomeless.org](http://www.chicagohomeless.org)**

Since 1980, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) has organized and advocated to prevent and end homelessness, because we believe housing is a human right in a just society. Our organization leads strategic campaigns, community outreach, and public policy initiatives that target the lack of affordable housing in metropolitan Chicago and across Illinois.

**About Connections for the Homeless [www.cfthinc.org](http://www.cfthinc.org)**

Connections provides housing, employment, and services to move individuals and families out of the shadows of homelessness. Serving 30 communities on the North Shore, the agency prevents people from losing their homes, houses those who are homeless, and helps each participant to reach the greatest possible level of self-sufficiency.