

Tinti, Elisa

From: Lee Bonvissuto <leebonvissuto@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Public comment

Hi there,

I hope you're having a great day and staying warm.

I would like to submit for public comment ahead of the public hearing tonight. I am very concerned about how inaccurate the proposed AMI for Kingston is and I support lowering it.

I moved here in 2020 like so many others from Brooklyn. I bought a home in Midtown Kingston, a privilege that has not been afforded to my friends who are lifelong Kingston residents, who grew up here.

I moved to Kingston because of the activists and artists. I moved here because of the makers and small businesses who make this city so special. Right now, rents are so high that the people who are from here, who have made the city what it is, cannot afford to stay.

I would love to see the city take more of a stand to support lifelong Kingston residents who are being priced out and displaced by people like me who are new here and earn much more. Not to mention the ongoing crisis at Kingston Housing Authority and this unrealistic AMI, it feels as though the city does not want its most under-resourced residents to be able to stay here.

This has caused tremendous stress and anxiety for my friends who are underhoused and displaced. The mental health crisis that is obvious in this city is directly tied to the lack of affordable, accessible, and stable housing.

I support lowering the AMI and creating more transparency for renters in this city as well as residents in public housing so that the people who have made this city great can stay here. Kingston will lose so much in terms of creativity, culture, and community if the city continues to neglect its most under-privileged residents.

Thank you,
Lee Bonvissuto

[they/them](#)

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Robert King <rknyc@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 11:22 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] PUBLIC HEARING ON 405.19 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON

I'm writing concerning the proposal by alders Hirsch and Tierney regarding increasing affordability in our city's Affordable Housing Section 405.19. The current threshold can no longer be considered "affordable" given the changes in our community over the past several years. This proposal can be a start towards changing that.

The Ulster County Planning Board acknowledged that:

"There is ample evidence of the UCPBs concern that the affordability component of the city's current zoning suffers from an inability to reach those needing assistance or that what was labeled as affordable may not be so. Recent changes in income levels have heightened these concerns. In the last four (4) years, county-wide area median income has risen by approximately forty (40) percent. In 2022, there was a marked difference in household income between the city and the county. According to the American Community Survey (ACS), in 2022, the median household income in Ulster County was \$77,197, contrasted against the City of Kingston's \$62,071. Additionally, the 2022 ACS data showed that owner-occupied households in the City of Kingston had a median income of \$90,500, while renter households had a median income of \$43,526. Notably, renters are the primary population the City's inclusionary zoning law serves."

Our vibrant community is suffering. This proposal can help us create a sustainable housing environment for all.

Robert King

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