



Regina Williams Preston

2nd District Council Member

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Discussion: Affordable Housing in South Bend

Over the last three years community members throughout South Bend have raised serious concerns about the large number of vacant lots concentrated in poor and low-income areas on the city's West and Southeast sides. The Community Relations Committee of the South Bend Common Council will hold a public meeting and discussion on **Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 6pm in Council Chambers (County City Building)** regarding a plan for new and affordable housing developed by South Bend-based housing consultant Anne Mannix of Neighborhood Development Associates (NDA) and 2nd District Councilwoman Regina Williams-Preston.

South Bend neighborhoods on the West and Southeast sides need an influx of new residents and energy. South Bend has a shortage of newer housing stock with amenities that most families have come to expect, like two bathrooms and a garage. Certain neighborhoods have an abundance of vacant lots. Purchasing the lots and building a new home is a complex process and is not accessible to the average home owner who is looking for a home. Construction costs are at least \$160,000 per house, well beyond the appraised value after construction and beyond the means of most who would choose to live in the neighborhoods. This project will combine funding from various sources to build 100 new homes to increase the housing options for families that want to live in South Bend. The homes will be located in neighborhoods that need redevelopment. A special financing package will allow for reasonable monthly costs to increase the marketability of the homes.

Dr. Darryl Heller, Director of the Civil Rights Heritage Center, will also give a brief presentation on the history of gentrification and land grabbing in the U.S. as it relates to racial and economic inequality in South Bend.

[Click here to view the Facebook event page](#)

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