





Density for Who?

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October 10, 2008







PolicyLink is a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity by Lifting Up What Works. ®

PolicyLink focuses on:



- Economic and social equity
- Low-income communities of color
- Policy impact
- Partnership



Creating Housing Opportunity



Where you live affects how you live.

Race matters, especially in context of "place" so place matters

Does Density Have to Gentrify?



Redevelopment

New Investment

 Conversion of Uses/Zoning Changes

Displacement Forces of Redevelopment



- Tax-increment Financing
- Demolition of existing community
- Time frame of redevelopment
- Flipping of surrounding properties
- Public housing

Displacement forces of New Investment



Infrastructure Investments

- Hospitals
- Universities

- Stadiums, tourism facilities
- Transit-oriented development

Displacement forces of Conversion of Uses/Rezoning



Industrial => Residential

Adaptive Reuse

Cost pressures on surrounding housing

What would ideal equitable development look like?



Community engaged early

 Robust housing plan to ensure affordability

 Strategy for workforce engagement in construction & emerging industries

What usually happens?



- Development planned without community
- Community reacts
- Speculation starts
- Land prices escalate before community control
- Gradual or wholesale displacement
- Social disruption of vulnerable households

What's a planner to do?



- Engage community up front
- Human capital expertise
- Real estate prowess
- Assemble & deploy all tools early
- Set goal of 20 percent of all housing offmarket

Equitable Development Tools



- Inclusionary Housing Requirement
- Increase TIF Housing Set Aside, require upfront investment
- Deploy real estate prowess to land bank for community control (use bond funds, housing trust)
- Recruit housing into Community Land Trust
- Establish Right to Return







Density Can Build Affordability and Opportunity— but Only if you focus on it



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