

Affordable Housing  
Real World Challenges and Opportunities  
*A Mayor's Perspective*

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Princeton, NJ



Why do towns build  
affordable housing?



Because the state and the courts  
force us to?

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Because we *want*:

....our seniors to grow old in our community

....our children to be able to move back as adults

....our families who have lived here for generations to continue to do so

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Because we *want*:

- ....to provide a diversity of housing options for diverse range of incomes
- ...to provide safe and decent housing for our low income families and individuals

# Franklin Terrace (1938)



# Maple Terrace (1948)



# Clay Street (1953)





# Spruce Circle (1967)



# Princeton Community Village (1975)



# Redding Circle (1978)



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How can we help municipalities  
to accomplish these goals?

# How can we help?

- Be creative in addressing needs of local population
- Give towns an effective toolbox
- Look holistically at all housing needs, including market rate housing for workforce/young families

# Partnership

- Town acting in good faith to provide a diversity of housing and to foster a diverse community.
- State should be facilitating these efforts. Current system is overly litigious – too often pits developers and housing advocates against towns and citizens.
- Need to encourage partnerships among towns, residents, housing advocates and developers to meet the need for affordable housing