From:	Courtney VonLindern
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Public Comment for Affordable Housing Trust Fund
Date:	Thursday, June 18, 2020 11:46:19 AM

Greetings Missoula City Council!

Thank you for your commitment and service to the Missoula community!

It is my understanding that you are meeting today at 1:50pm to discuss the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. It is no secret that our Missoula community faces a critical lack of affordable housing--as a long time resident, and alumni of the University of Montana, I've had my fair share of trying to find adequate housing so that I may continue to live, work, and participate in the beautiful community that is Missoula. A lack of affordable housing continues to affect those most at risk of losing stable shelter--this includes our low-income families, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and our Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color in our community who may be fighting systemic odds stacked against them: housing is only one of them.

As leaders in our community, I'm asking you to FULLY invest in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. If our Mayor can promise $250,000 to showers for our police department, we can serve our community better by investing in one another. By meeting one's basic needs (housing, food, etc.), we can begin to watch crime decrease in our community as people no longer feel desperate to have their needs met. This is not a promise that needs to be met by those who have been working hard on housing in our community such as the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative--we can eliminate the need for volunteer services by providing stable, adequate, and affordable housing to ALL of those in our community. Step up. Invest in us. Invest in each other. We need housing....NOW.

Thank you for listening.

Best,

Courtney VonLindern
(they/them)
Director of Children and Youth Ministries
First United Methodist Church
Missoula, MT
C: 406-314-1045