

Remarks to Planning Board re Local Climate Action Plan 10232017

From: Rasheed Shabazz <hopein510@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 10:04 PM
To: NANCY McPeak
Cc: ANDREW THOMAS
Subject: Remarks to Planning Board re: Local Climate Action Plan 10/23/2017

Greetings,

I spoke at the Planning Board meeting this evening. I'd like to share my full remarks with the Board and for the record. Thank you.

Remarks to Planning Board re: Local Climate Action Plan
Rasheed Shabazz
10/23/2017

This past weekend on my way to the Main Library, I saw a group of teenagers on Limebikes talking to a woman in a car. Presumably, she'd asked them about the bikes, how they worked, because one young man broke it down: price, use of mobile app, comfortability, and how to get a free ride.

I share this for a few reasons. First, one might say these young men were doing their part to reduce ghg, although they were probably too young to legally drive. Secondly, young people are too often not included in decision making. And they were all young black males, demographic often excluded from not only decision making or democratic process. es, but consideration altogether.

I am here this evening to briefly discuss environmental justice and equity, and the need to consider the needs of different populations in adopting a climate action plan.

In an article in the journal ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, Wilson, Mujahid and Hutson discussed how "planning and zoning contribute to inequitable development and how this has implications for the design of neighborhoods, health and health disparities, and environmental injustice." (<http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/env.2008.0506>)

Many of these current climate calamities and catastrophes are due to past decisions, often planning decisions. When we look at the current crisis facing Puerto Rico, there are multiple factors, but the principal—imho—is colonialism. How did the people come to populate that island? And who structured their economy?

This past spring I gave a talk for an Earthday event for this group, Alamedans for Black Lives—an affinity group of white people concerned about racial justice and equity. I share a brief history of how zoning and siting in Alameda segregated Black people near or

isolated behind railroad tracks, how the home of a pioneer Black Alamedan family is current site of AMP's Central Substation, and some redeveloped land for affordable housing had been sited on soil once deemed toxic.

A few weeks ago, Alameda had its own more recent environmental crisis on Alameda Point. How did planning lead to that crisis? Who was burdened by the impact of past decisions? How has planning protected some people while poisoning others?

In a time when climate change and subsequent or related resource conflicts has led to climate refugees throughout the world, i want to encourage you all to—as the saying goes—think globally, act locally.

RECOMMENDATIONS

These are a few recommendations for the scope and RFP for new local plan.

- Consider the past and potential disparate impacts of plans this body adopts a plan.
- Consider: who benefits and who is burdened? Who is most vulnerable?
- Include environmental justice and society equity lens in your analysis or analytical framework.
- Center protected groups: racial minorities, elderly, and people with disabilities.
- Ensure documentation and outreach available to non-English speaking groups: Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Tagalog, Somali, Tigrina, Arabic, etc.
- Involve other groups like: Green for All, APEN (Asian Pacific Environmental Network), and i-Seed
- Engage people of different housing tenure, not solely homeowners (Specific opportunities for tenants in larger buildings to compost)
- Lastly, identify ways to engage young people in this process, either through youth commission or AUSD & COA student governments. Not only as a tool for outreach and education, but to engage them as the people that will inherit this earth.

Thank you.

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"The pillar of the world is hope." – African Proverb