

To: Yorktown Town Board
From: Members of Interfaith Council of Yorktown/Somers
Re: Affordable Housing
Date: May 14, 2026

Dear Supervisor Lachterman, Deputy Supervisor Esposito, Councilman Gilbert, Councilman Murphy, and Councilwoman Siegel,

We are religious leaders in the Town of Yorktown, from a variety of faiths, writing in support of the housing “Set Aside” law proposed by the Yorktown Community Housing Board, which is scheduled for a public hearing on June 16th, 2026.

This law proposes to have 10% of units in new housing developments in Yorktown “set aside” as affordable housing. This is not housing for low income communities, although we believe they deserve decent housing as well. Rather, this is targeted towards people with moderate incomes: home ownership units will be geared to those who earn no more than 80% of the median income in Westchester, currently \$136,000 or less annually for a four person household; and for rental units, to those who earn no more than 60% of the median income in the county, currently \$102,000 or less annually for a four person household. New housing developments being built in Yorktown (think Underhill apartments in Yorktown Heights, Toll brothers housing on Catherine Street, and AMS builders in Jefferson Valley) are being priced around \$800,000 to \$1 million for homeownership units, and \$3000 - \$4,000 monthly for rentals. People with moderate incomes are priced out of both the rental and home sale market.

As faith leaders in Yorktown, we see firsthand in our own congregations the need for affordable housing. We see that we are losing our younger generations due to the lack of affordable housing. Young people who grew up in our congregations cannot find housing near their parents, and must move away to less expensive areas. This causes real hardship to both generations, and is a loss to our community as well.

Likewise, many of the people who provide essential and important services to our communities, such as teachers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, mechanics, construction workers, cleaning personnel, home health aides, restaurant staff, retail workers, warehouse workers, IT staff, etc., cannot afford to live here. They must commute long distances, causing stress to their families and adding more traffic to our roads.

Also as faith leaders, we feel that creating quality housing that all people can afford is a moral and ethical duty. Serving the needs of all people, including those of low and moderate means, is the calling of faith, and it should be the calling of government as well.

Therefore, we support enactment of the proposed affordable housing set aside law.

In partnership,

- Reverend Lane Cobb, Minister - Fourth Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Westchester
- Rabbi Robert Weiner, Rabbi - Temple Beth Am of Northern Westchester
- Rev Michael Watson, Pastor- Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Mohegan Lake
- Susan Cody, Baha'i Faith
- Rev Dave Dockweiler, Pastor-St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
- Rev. Paul Tesshin Silverman, Yorktown Zen