

## HOUSING FOR WHOM?

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The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality. Dante

Ten years ago we helped our brothers and sisters from New Orleans find housing in Austin that was safe, sanitary, accessible and affordable. We did so with a sense of urgency, and many of us were very proud of our efforts. Many reports this week show how some people continue to benefit ten years later while others are left behind.

This week I learned from a family member how much more affluent those who are moving to Austin are as compared to households who were in Austin in 2000. I am providing you and the entire Council a copy of this study that divides Austin into ten income groups, with the lowest being less than \$10,000 a year and the highest being over \$200,000 household income a year. The chart shows that people who live on less than \$800/month Social Security or Social Security payments who some of us serve and support are a decreasing part of our Austin population as compared to the most affluent among us. This means that the housing available in Austin is very affordable for most moving here, and less so for those who have been here a while.

When people came here from Katrina, we knew what a bedroom was, how many adults can live in each bedroom, and how many adults and children could live in a home whether they are related or not. We knew the right of entry standards for vacant and occupied housing so that inspections for safety and sanitation would follow laws governing privacy and property rights. Yet when Council members and Austin residents asked questions about these topics, no one who knew the answers was allowed to tell the public what those answers are. As a consultant who helps not-for-profits build and fix affordable housing, I offer my technical services to you free of charge to answer those questions at your convenience.

I hope as a renter I can address the Committee this afternoon on Repeat Offender, Homestead Preservation District and Rainey, and fee-in-lieu for Planned Unit Development. The recent speech limitations on full City Council actions on short-term-rental, zoning, and other matters where homeowner opponents and industry representatives who own homes get to choose 4 speakers per side or speakers for ½ hour testimony per side forces those of us who are renters to be silent on important public policy matters. That hardly seems fair. The Committees seems to be more willing to entertain renter speech than the current Council structure allows. Hope you will allow us to speak today.

## Austin City Limits Household Income

Red is middle class defined at +/- 50% of median household income. Median is about \$52,000.

| Income          | 2000    | % of 2000 Total | 2010    | % of 2010 Total | 2013    | % of 2013 Total | Inc./Dec. 2000-2013 | % of Inc./Dec. |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <\$10K          | 24,799  | 9.34%           | 26,993  | 8.28%           | 27,023  | 8.00%           | 2,224               | 3.08%          |
| \$10-\$14,999   | 14,492  | 5.46%           | 15,430  | 4.73%           | 15,538  | 4.60%           | 1,046               | 1.45%          |
| \$15-\$24,999   | 32,628  | 12.28%          | 31,672  | 9.72%           | 32,428  | 9.60%           | -200                | -0.28%         |
| \$25-\$34,999   | 35,546  | 13.38%          | 34,854  | 10.69%          | 34,455  | 10.20%          | -1,091              | -1.51%         |
| \$35-\$49,999   | 43,524  | 16.39%          | 47,864  | 14.68%          | 48,642  | 14.40%          | 5,118               | 7.09%          |
| \$50-\$74,999   | 51,029  | 19.21%          | 56,911  | 17.46%          | 59,451  | 17.60%          | 8,422               | 11.67%         |
| \$75-\$99,999   | 27,568  | 10.38%          | 37,083  | 11.38%          | 39,522  | 11.70%          | 11,954              | 16.56%         |
| \$100-\$149,000 | 21,889  | 8.24%           | 40,074  | 12.29%          | 43,575  | 12.90%          | 21,686              | 30.04%         |
| \$150-\$199,999 | 6,742   | 2.54%           | 16,651  | 5.11%           | 17,565  | 5.20%           | 10,823              | 14.99%         |
| \$200,000+      | 7,377   | 2.78%           | 18,459  | 5.66%           | 19,591  | 5.80%           | 12,214              | 16.92%         |
| Total           | 265,594 | 100.00%         | 325,991 | 100.00%         | 337,790 | 100.00%         | 72,196              | 100.00%        |