

Anti-NIMBYism Action Plan

FHAST: Impediment 4.2

NIMBYism (“Not in My Backyard”) has been defined by the Housing Assistance Council as direct actions taken by citizens to prevent the development of special-use or low income housing in their communities. Preventing these types of developments is usually done by using the pretext of protecting the environment against pollution, heavy traffic, and/or dense population. These actions mostly stem out of the misconception that affordable housing developments will lower property value, increase crime, and/or damage the character of the community; various studies have invalidated these misconceptions, and proved many of them to be myths. Case studies have demonstrated that when communities increase awareness with factual information to help debunk these myths about low income housing developments, NIMBYism can be combated and communities can gain the benefits associated with a diversified tax base: ‘rich life experience and enhanced opportunity to live our country’s best values’.

Although studies have debunked misconceptions that instill fear in communities about the effects of low income housing developments, NIMBY attitudes persist because this information is not circulated sufficiently. So long as these misconceptions are not addressed, communities will continue to risk losing the gains brought by a diversified tax base (race, income, national origin, ethnicity, and familial status). Therefore to combat NIMBYism in our region the Newton County Commissioners’ Court will strive to address misconceptions of low income housing development in the County of Newton with the following action plan:

- I. The County of Newton will strive to increase awareness with the distribution of printed material containing factual information that debunks myths and addresses misconceptions about low income and special-use housing developments. These materials will be assessable to counties, municipalities, non-profits, and developers. The County of Newton will encourage these organizations to use all available technology and resources to spread this information.
- II. The County of Newton will, when appropriate, hold trainings on NIMBYism for local elected and non-elected officials in an effort to garner political support on anti-nimbyism thought cooperation and understanding.
- III. The County of Newton will encourage its jurisdiction to cooperate with low income and special-use housing developers in helping prepare for community opposition.

Passed and approved by Newton County Commissioners’ Court in Newton, Texas on this the 14th of April, 2014.


Truman Dougharty, Newton County Judge

ATTEST:


Sandra K. Duckworth, County Clerk
Newton, Texas

