

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

# Oct. 9: Coalition shows housing gap in Anaheim

## A group urges the City Council to set standards to help the working poor at Platinum Triangle development.

By **SARAH TULLY**

The Orange County Register

ANAHEIM – Children ride scooters and skateboards in the street in the same city as Disneyland. A graffiti-decorated fence boards a home with new, shiny downtown apartments in the background. Cashiers earn \$8.85 an hour where at least \$28.56 an hour is needed to pay for the average two-bedroom apartment in the area.

On Tuesday, a community group put up a display outside City Hall with such photos and figures to show “A Tale of Two Anaheims” – a way members hoped would bring attention to the working poor.

The coalition – Orange County Communities

Organized for Responsible Development, or OCCORD – put on Tuesday’s demonstration before the City Council meeting, where some members also spoke. About 20 members of the coalition of faith-based groups, unions and community leaders attended the event.

“We have an economic apartheid going on,” said Doug Mangione, a representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

For the display, a coalition member acted as a tour guide and led participants along a set of particle boards with pictures and graphs showing the issues of jobs, housing and lack of sufficient parks.

OCCORD is trying to urge the City Council and a developer to require certain standards to help low-income residents in a project planned on a city-owned plot north of Angel Stadium in the Platinum Triangle urban area. Those include child-care facilities, environmentally friendly practices, adequate wages and low-cost housing.

Because the proposed development is on public land, the group believes it should benefit the public.

But OCCORD has faced resistance. Developer Archstone-Smith, which is negotiating to buy the 51.4-acre plot, has met with OCCORD representatives but made no promises. The Angels’ stadium lease forbids any residences there and Angels management has refused to alter the agreement. The City Council has yet to ask Archstone-Smith to follow any of OCCORD’s goals.

“It’s not just about housing. It’s about a whole lot of issues,” said Eric Altman, the coalition’s executive director. “Even if the Angels never agree to housing on the site, there are still a lot

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of things that can be done to address the housing crisis at that development.”

Archstone-Smith officials declined to comment.

The coalition is protesting at the same time that about 9,000 homes are planned elsewhere in the Platinum Triangle, but none are slated to be “affordable.”

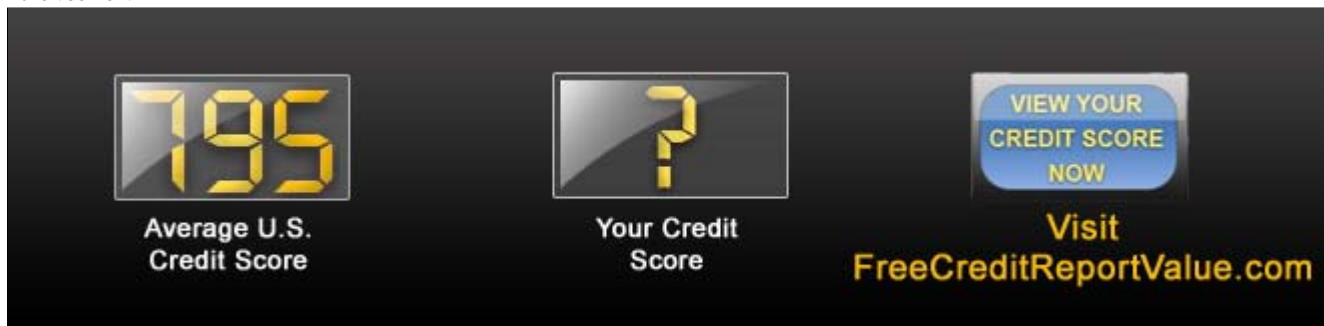
Some of the coalition members are also supporting developer SunCal’s proposal to include about 200 affordable apartments in a nearby development, which Disney is vigorously fighting.

The National Football League previously had considered the Platinum Triangle plot for a stadium, but negotiations have ceased.

A revised Archstone-Smith proposal is expected by the end of the year and a purchase could be finalized early next year.

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