



**COLORADANS FOR THE
COMMON GOOD**

Making Democracy Work

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ARVADA VETERANS, SENIORS FACING HOMELESSNESS DUE TO SALE OF AFFORDABLE BUILDING

Coloradans for the Common Good and several allied Arvada community groups advocating for affordable housing in Jefferson County recently learned that a 20-unit apartment building at 5840 Carr St. (blocks from Arvada's Olde Town) has been sold. For decades, it provided affordable rents for mostly senior and disabled residents on fixed incomes. The new owners have started notifying the residents that they must be out in the next month, creating fear and desperation.

One resident living on social security was previously homeless and dreads being in that situation again. Another veteran with disabilities explained that last month he needed to sell his car to pay his rent, and the impending eviction is causing him extreme stress and health problems.

During the past year, we have witnessed rental rates being greatly increased due to rental developments and single-family rental units being sold to new owners. This is leaving increasing numbers of renters stranded or cost-burdened. The Arvada Housing Assessment & Strategy (May 2020), solicited by the City of Arvada, found that 28% of renters in Arvada were "severely cost burdened", meaning that they were spending more than 50% of their income for housing.

Several of our organizations have been meeting for a number of years with City and County leaders on the need to address our Affordable Housing crisis. Our message is that they cannot just rely on the faith communities and non-profits to solve this problem; government agencies have a role to help ensure that everyone has a safe roof over their heads.

The city of Arvada and Jefferson County recently received over \$120 million collectively from the Federal Government due to stimulus money. CCG and our allies are advocating that our elected leaders put a substantial portion of that money towards preserving and expanding affordable housing, so what happened at 5840 Carr won't continue throughout our community.

We invite members of the press to meet with the residents at 5840 Carr and our leaders to hear their stories and our proposals about what can be done about this situation and the wider affordable housing crisis in Jefferson County. Please contact Tom Olschner with your availability.

Partner Organizations:

Severe Weather Shelter Network, Arvadans for Progressive Action, Jefferson Unitarian Church
Community Action Network (an affiliate of Together Colorado), Trinity Presbyterian Church - Arvada

www.cocommongood.org