

Federal government wants to force 'low-income' housing

June 6, 2013

by [Randy Bright](#)



Randy Bright

Ron Sims, the Former HUD Deputy Secretary, was recently shown in a video clip on Hannity saying, "Today, we've taken an important step toward building what we call geography of opportunity."

This was in reference of a long, ongoing battle between the federal government and Westchester County, a suburb area of New York City.

The federal government is attempting to force Westchester County to build more "affordable housing" that will allow more poor people and minorities to live in the affluent county. Westchester County had already committed to building 750 units, but the federal government now wants them to build over 10,000 units.

"Affordable Housing" is a euphemism for subsidized housing or for housing mortgaged and owned by people who could not otherwise afford the homes. The same policy that caused the housing bubble is back in the works. The federal government is reportedly leaning on the county to pressure local banks into making high-risk loans.

On Fox and Friends on June 2, County Executive Rob Astorino appeared to explain the dilemma. He described the federal government's attempts to force the county to abandon its current zoning laws so that the affordable housing can be built anywhere, even in suburbs where zoning protected homeowners living in single family homes from having high rise housing being built within their own neighborhoods.

The spat with the federal government revolves around a suit that was settled in 2009, in which the federal government claimed that Westchester County was too white and intentionally segregated. As part of the settlement, the county agreed to build 750 affordable housing units, but now the feds are saying that they want more. HUD is now pressuring the county to accept their extra-settlement demands by withholding funding for other programs.

Astorino asserted on Hannity that HUD was using his county as a test case that, if successful, would be used across the nation to force other communities to become more “diverse” by mixing low-income housing with more affluent neighborhoods.

In an interview, HUD Assistant Secretary John Trasvina said, “What prompted the litigation in the first place, and what the county continues to fail to do, is to address the impact of race on housing choice.”

Astorino said that “If a federal department, in this case HUD, can dictate to local officials what they will and won’t do, we’re careening toward a different country... The last thing we want is five years from now, for people to say, ‘What happened? Why is this neighborhood completely inside-out now? Why do I have a six-story government housing project or building or townhomes in my neighborhood when it wasn’t zoned for that when I moved in here?’”

I believe that what is really going on here is that the accusation of racism is being used to coerce a community to accept the government’s vision of density and social justice. And if they are successful at forcing this set of policies on Westchester – and the courts stand behind the feds – then what is left to restrain them from forcing this and other policies on the rest of the country?

At some point, the affluent and even the middle class will begin abandoning their neighborhoods and moving to areas where they can maintain their lifestyle, live in safety, and preserve their property rights and values. That is, provided there is somewhere for them to go.

This push for migrating all Americans to urban areas while denying the use of land outside the urban areas is quite real, and indeed it has already begun in earnest in states like Oregon, where in some places you would not be allowed to rebuild your home if it burned, rather, you would have to build a multi-family building in its place, and where zoning prohibits most home construction in about 95% of the state.

What is next? Well, if segregation is the reason given for forcing Westchester County to spend millions of dollars on “affordable housing” to prevent discrimination, then what excuse will be used to force churches to build multi-family housing in their parking lots (as a recent urban planning book suggests), or to force churches out because they are parasites on the community?

I think that people are waking up to the reality of too much governmental control over community planning, but we need more people like Rob Astorino who will stand up and say no to policies that are not only wrong, but destructive to our freedoms.

©2013 Randy W. Bright

Randy W. Bright, AIA, NCARB, is an architect who specializes in church and church-related projects. You may contact him at 918-582-3972, rwbrightchurcharch@sbcglobal.net or www.churcharchitect.net.

© 2013 Tulsa Beacon