



The YIMBYs of MoCo are at it again-- accusing opponents of racism to silence them. Taking their cue from Casey Anderson, Planning Board Chair, the YIMBYs of MoCo are using the same playbook of accusing anyone who disagrees with his flawed and poorly written 2nd version of Thrive, of being racist. MoCo YIMBYs have taken his message to heart, resorting to the usual social media warfare to intimidate and silence anyone standing up against the political establishment. Ben Bradley and Michael English—are no exception—they recently tweeted an article from a right-wing news outlet from **13 years ago** in which I drew attention to the unhealthy, unsanitary conditions in Wheaton. Their goal? To keep me in my "place", of course, by accusing me, a Black woman, of being racist for demanding that the Council enforce public health regulations in my own community.

The article (see <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/wheaton-group-tomeetaboutovercrowding>-- archived article from 13 years ago) in fact illustrates that the County Council has always had the power to create equity, yet the County Council continues to knowingly allows its residents to live in **unsafe conditions**, knowingly allows its residents to live in **inhumane conditions**, knowingly allows its residents to live in **unsanitary conditions**. Thrive Montgomery 2050 is nothing but a farce, masquerading as a social concern. This is what hypocrisy and institutional racism, led by Hans Riemer and followed by the rest of the County Council, looks like.

***YIMBYs use doxing, and online intimidation to slander opponents:** After an older African American homeowner testified against Thrive, YIMBYs posted the deed to her house with accusations that she had hoarded wealth and denied housing opportunities to others. YIMBYs have stalked the homes of older women, repeatedly posting photos of their homes, with house numbers, on multiple social media platforms, exposing them to vandalism and false accusations of racism. It seems these YIMBYs think sexism, ageism, and calling others racists are weapons to be deployed if people disagree with them.

Look in the mirror, YIMBYs. Let's be clear: Thrive 2050 is Councilmember Riemer's and Chair Anderson's gift to developers. It will allow for sweeping housing policies, including market-rate duplexes, triplexes and quads to be built in single-family neighborhoods as a matter of right **and** without **any** public input. The consequences? Gentrification of neighborhoods and displacement of residents countywide. They are championing zoning reforms that will not help people of color or those who can't afford \$700,000 townhomes, advanced by a Planning Board now accused of ethics violations by its own general counsel. Stop calling your opponents racists and get your own house in order. If you have to rely on such dishonest tactics to make your case, then you really have nothing to say.

Sincerely,

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