
To: CRCOG Regional Planning Commission
From: Lynne Pike DiSanto, Principal Planner & Policy Analyst, Community Development
Date: November 4, 2020
Subject: November 19th RPC Meeting – Desegregate Connecticut

At the September meeting, commission members requested a presentation on Desegregate Connecticut. The upcoming Regional Planning Commission meeting will include a presentation from Sara Bronin, a founding organizer of the effort and former Chair of the City of Hartford's Planning and Zoning Commission.

The following is a brief summary of Desegregate Connecticut taken from its website: www.desegregatect.org.

Desegregate Connecticut is a coalition of people and institutions who believe that now is the time to change statewide land use laws to ensure a more just and equitable Connecticut. They believe our state can be desegregated by expanding housing diversity, increasing housing supply, and improving the development process. Desegregate Connecticut works to educate people about segregation in housing and alternatives to the status quo; they research housing, health, and environmental issues; and they advocate for change in communities and our state. To continue awareness of the issue and keep the conversation going, Desegregate Connecticut regularly hosts meetings and educational events.

Desegregate Connecticut's platform is, "To desegregate Connecticut, we must overhaul our land use laws within the existing State-local framework to be more inclusive by design. We must expand **housing diversity**. We must increase **housing supply**. And we must **improve processes** that thwart good development."

Desegregate Connecticut emerged in June 2020 during a period of rising public awareness about inequities in our society, as exposed by the twin pandemics of COVID and racial injustice. Since then, they have grown quickly and now have over forty organizations aligned with them to push for reforms in land use law at the local and state levels.