

PROGRESS IN PACIFICA

Bill Moore, St. Peter Church

Where are the new families in Pacifica? This is a critical question that we in the PIA Local Organizing Committee (LOC) at St. Peter Church in Pacifica are raising in our community. Thirty years ago the city had 11,000 children in the school district; now it has 3,000. Families with young children cannot afford to live here. Pacifica residents are struggling with the reality of the disparity between average income and the cost of homes.

On September 10, 2005, the St. Peter organization of PIA held an action at which the Mayor of Pacifica and over 100 friends and neighbors came to discuss the housing needs and problems that face Pacifica. Two other council members and two planning commissioners also attended the action. We chose to focus the discussion on creating an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance which would require that 15% of homes in new housing developments in Pacifica be sold or rented at below-market rates.

The meeting was very productive. We gained a commitment that the city's planning commission will produce an ordinance to go to the council for public discussion by February 2006. The action had excellent coverage in the Pacifica Tribune, and we at St. Peter's considered it a rousing success.