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**To:** [citycouncil](#)  
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What contributes to rising housing costs? -Increasing property taxes. I pay over \$300 each year to move empty buses around Salem. [Empty buses? This can easily be checked. Just see for yourself.] I recognize the transit system is not within the purview of the Council, but I have never heard a counselor even object to this waste of taxpayer money. A plethora of Urban Renewal Areas which costs me \$500 each year. -Exorbitant water rates. Every year without fail the Council increases our water cost. -City fees (taxes) added to utility bills. All of these contribute to the cost of housing. How does the City expect to pay for “affordable housing?” Obviously, it’s not free, so who pays? Ultimately, of course, the taxpayer pays through higher property/income taxes thus leaving less money for housing. What is the goal of government provided housing? Is it stated in clear, measurable terms? How does one assess success in achieving that goal? Or is government merely enabling again? The more one enables, the more will come. A major and controllable source of increased housing costs lies directly in front of you. Just look in a mirror. Dan Reid Ward 3

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