



RHODE MAP RI VAGUE AND LACKING TRANSPARENCY

Many opponents of Rhode Map RI, perceive it as a “Trojan Horse” to impose by mandate Social Equity and Justice otherwise considered code for equal outcome, not equal opportunity.

“HUD” channeling through Rhode Map RI will seek funding to establish “growth centers” to impose Central Planning bureaucracy which will operate beyond the laws of the state. These growth centers mapped out on Rhode Map RI website, have been in the planning for some time now.

Backers of the plan point out they have had nearly two dozen public hearings since August 2013, with little opposition. On November 13 however, the Consortium and Housing meeting was met by dozens of opponents from the rural, suburban, and urban areas all with a common theme to their argument.

Lacey Greevey of the Property Rights Alliance of Rhode Island “PRARI” stated in an interview with channel 10 NBC local news stated in an interview with channel 10 NBC local news. “ They want to take away the rights of elected officials and people and put it in the hands of federal bureaucracies, such as “HUD” and federal bureaucrats”.

The October meeting proved to be quite the heated debate especially from the supporters of the plan lashing out in a very undignified and improper fashion. Accusations of racism and name calling of opponents such as,” bigots and “ku klux klan” were “lobbed” toward anyone who offered constructive opposition or concern with transparency and further study of the plan.

Dee Dequatro, from “Dee from the Desk” ABC 6 pointed out: proponents stated the plan will eliminate social inequalities and bring more diversity to Rhode Island communities while opponents say it will be costly and eliminate town’s roles in their own zoning ordinances.

The Alliance for Safe Communities primary concern is in regard to part of the plan which demonstrates little illumination on a topic that could affect the safety of all Rhode Island Communities.

Within the Oct. 16 2014 minutes of the Rhode Island Consortium and Housing Committee; Goal 1 and Goal 4 refer to an extremely concerning population considered within these growth centers. The addressed in the document are as follows: 1) Discuss removing barriers to formerly incarcerated individuals. 2) The plan should more affirmatively speak to this issue and call out some options such as Department of Corrections needs a better system of half way houses and home placement.

With no further illumination as to what these goals reference, I will attempt to enlighten the reader as to the enormity of the situation and vast numbers of formerly incarcerated not mentioned.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ADULT PROBATION AND PAROLE STUDIES SUMMARY OF STATISTICS MOST RECENTLY POSTED ON DOC WEBSITE FEBRUARY 2013

Total on Probation and Parole 24,763

Total under Active Supervision 8,383

For more information regarding types of offenders refer to our website www.asc-ri.org "Predators and Children" page, or DOC website as well. I think you will find Case Types, Case Loads and Ratios to Supervisors very enlightening.

When considering housing for the vast number of convicted felons returning to our communities, the Alliance feels it is paramount to know just who one's new neighbors might be in these "growth centers".

Under HUD guidelines a wide array of criminals are eligible for Section 8 housing: Drug Dealers, not inclusive of those who produce meth however all other varieties, pedophiles, not those registered for life, murderers, and "thrill killers" similar to the notorious Alfred Brissette are all qualified applicants.

Surely these candidates deserve ample public vetting and input as dynamics for communities throughout the state will be changed.

The Alliance feels the public awareness effort, discussion, sharing of data and information of Rhode Map RI has been less than transparent and in fact intentionally so in the area of community safety.

Legislators plan to file legislation in the next session of the General Assembly to extend a statutory deadline for the state to devise a new long term economic development.

House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello submitted that the planning council meeting planned for Nov. be moved to Dec. 11, 2014.

This allows for two outcomes: 1) Lawmakers are now listening to their constituents. 2) Vetting of key issues within the plan may be further submitted in terms of planning and financing.

In summary, the Alliance feels the current measures to be taken lead to a more democratic process intended not only by our Federal Constitution but our State Constitution as well.

*Upon release of this article on December 11th 2014 the Rhode Island Division of Planning unanimously voted through passage of Rhode Map RI, despite fierce opposition from residents, business owners, and elected officials from many towns and cities. They demonstrated a total disregard for any few statements permitted given little time allowed. It was obvious to all in attendance, they had their minds decided before the meeting as to what the outcome would be for Rhode Islander's and their futures.

References: 1) Cast Iron Blog Works in America Redneck Republic Rhode Map RI , " Brute force social equity and Social justice powered by HUD

2) Turn to ten news House Speaker wants Rhode Map delayed

3) Research Rhode Map RI Lacey McGreevey Petitioning Rhode Island State House Senate/ House

4) Dee from the Desk: Road bump on the Rhode Map ABC6 Executive Summary Draft Rhode Map RI

5) Rhode Map RI HUD sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Rhode Island Consortium and Housing Committee monthly meeting minutes Oct. 16, 2014. 1:30 -3:30 pm

6) Public Housing Occupancy Guide Book HUD June 2003

7) bronxdefenders.org/housing-and-arrests-or-criminal-convictions

8) Rhode Map RI website