

**AMERICAN PLANNING
ASSOCIATION**

New York Metro Chapter

and

**ASIAN AMERICANS
FOR EQUALITY**

invite you to join in a

PLANNING SYMPOSIUM

**MT. LAUREL COMES
TO NEW YORK
HOUSING AS A
CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHT***

MARCH 19, 1986

6-8 pm

at the

CUNY GRADUATE CENTER

33 West 42nd St.
3rd Floor Studio

*as rendered in the case
"AAFE vs. KOCH"

"As the crow flies,

Chinatown is only a short distance from suburban New Jersey, but for the moment, the rules that oversee their development are a world apart. New York City has a Special District where new housing will be built for the rich alone. Yet in the Jersey suburbs, the *Mount Laurel* rule requires the provision of housing for poor persons.

"At a time when the federal courts are retreating in the field of civil rights, the *Mount Laurel* doctrine offers a beacon of hope for progressive change. In an era of devastating attacks on lower-income housing, including the virtual elimination of federal housing subsidies, there are constitutional burdens on the state and its subdivisions to provide housing for the needy.

"No one can deny the comprehensive role of the state in every aspect of the provision of housing. Zoning can and must do more than merely unleash the forces of the free market. If the New York courts reject the *Mount Laurel* mandate for affirmative zoning, then current development trends will ensure that sooner or later, there will be no more lower-income housing. The New York State Constitution prohibits the City from zoning for the benefit of the rich alone; the New York Judiciary may not build housing, but it must enforce the Constitution."

Steve Dobkin, Geoffrey Smith, and Earle Tockman, "Zoning for the General Welfare: A Constitutional Weapon for Lower Income Tenants," *NEW YORK UNIVERSITY REVIEW OF LAW AND SOCIAL CHANGE*, pp. 928-929.

Distinguished Guest Panel:

Peter Abeles,

Partner, Affordable Living
Partnership

(Developer of Mt. Laurel Hous-
ing & Planning Expert in Mt.
Laurel I & II)

Peter Marcuse,

Professor, Graduate School of
Architecture and Planning,
Columbia University

Stuart Meck,

Assistant City Manager and
Planning Director, Oxford,
Ohio; Member, Board of Direc-
tors, American Planning
Association; Member, Ameri-
can Institute of Certified Plan-
ners Commission

Susan Motley,

Commissioner, New York City
Planning Commission; Pro-
gram Director, Local Initiatives
Support Corporation

Philip Tegeler,

University of Connecticut Law
School

Lydia Tom, (Moderator)

Director of Neighborhood
Preservation Company,
Asian Americans for Equality

Housing as a Constitutional Right*

Partial List of Supporters

Father Donald Sakano, Director of Housing
 Catholic Charities
 Stuart Meck,
 American Planning Association Director/
 American Institute of Certified Planner
 Edgar Romney, General Manager
 Local 23-25, International Ladies Garment Workers Union
 Community Planning Board #3, Manhattan
 Frank Barbaro, New York State Assembly Member
 District #47
 David A. Patterson,
 New York State Senator, District #29
 Luis Nievès, Executive Director
 Lower East Side, Coalition Housing Development
 Floyd Feldman, Executive Director
 Good Old Lower East Side, Inc.
 Carlos Perkins, Executive Director
 Interfaith Adopt-A-Building, Inc.
 Pueblo Nuevo Housing and Development Association
 Lower East Side Catholic Area Conference
 Sergio T. Rivera, Director
 New York Hispanic Housing Coalition, New York
 Lower East Side Joint Planning Council
 Ron Shiffman, Director
 Pratt Institute for Community and
 Environmental Development
 Andrew Reicher, Executive Director
 Urban Homesteading Assistance Board
 C. Vernon Mason, Esquire
 Leslie Salzman, Herbert Semmel, Lewis Golinker
 New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
 Carl S. Bisgaier, Esquire
 National Low Income Housing Coalition,
 Washington, D.C.
 National Coalition for the Homeless,
 Washington, D.C.
 National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc.,
 Washington, D.C.
 New York State Rural Housing Advocates,
 Albany, New York
 Suffolk Housing Services, Long Island, New York
 Old Trenton Neighborhood Development Corporation,
 New Jersey
 People's Firehouse, Inc., Brooklyn
 Valley Restoration Local Development Corporation, New York
 Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council, New York
 Keith Getter, Executive Director
 Park Slope-5th Avenue Local Development Corporation
 Metropolitan Council on Housing
 Committee to Save East Harlem
 Southwest Bronx Community Coordinating Council, Inc./
 East West Eviction Prevention Center
 Bill Price and Lucila Velez
 United Tenants Association
 West Side SRO Law Project
 Thad Owens,
 Crown Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association
 Arthur Male
 53 Stanton Street Tenants Association

*As rendered in our case, Asian Americans for Equality v. Koch, No. 22491/83 (Sup. Ct., N.Y. County, Feb. 21, 1984). On August 6, 1985, in a landmark 36 page decision, Justice David Saxe denied the City's motion to dismiss AAFE's claims regarding the City's failure to meet its constitutional obligations to zone for lower-income housing. N.Y.L.J., Aug. 14, 1985, at 11, col. 4.