Live Long and Prosper

Vulcan: Dif-Tor HEH Smusma
Hebrew: Shalom Aleichem
Arabic: Salaam Alaykum
English: Peace Be Upon You
Circumstances: USA cities have become unaffordable

1960: 1/3 of planet living in cities; in 2010: over 50%
USA in 1960: 64%    in 2010: 82%    2020: 84% projected

33% of population (110 million) live with income less than 2x of poverty threshold
Poverty defined for one - $12,000   family of 4 - $24,000
(US Census Bureau)

• 1% live in rent controlled apartments
• 15% live in public housing
• 17% receive a subsidy through rent-reducing voucher
• 67% receive no federal assistance
• 1 in 5 of renting families spends > 50% of income on housing
(Evicted - M. Desmond, Crown 2016)
No one is home until we are all home

Mobility is not chosen but forced as result of increase in evictions nationwide

- Impacts upon community are devastating
  - Unemployment is more likely by 15% for the evicted
  - Evicted are 25% more likely to experience long-term housing problems
  - ‘Material hardship’ abounds: sickness; homelessness; hunger; lack of heat; electricity; etc.
  - 90% of landlords represented by legal counsel; 10% of tenants
  - Thwarts local cohesion and community investment
  - Blight is pervasive … banking deserts
  - Wealth stripping: proliferation of payday loans, cash advance and rent to own centers.
Travel in the US is a right but mobility is forced if you are evicted

**Universal Housing Voucher**

making decent, affordable housing a right

as it is in UN Declaration of Rights - Article 25

- Every family below a certain income level would be eligible for voucher
- It would be illegal to deny housing to voucher holders
- It would provide steadier income to landlords
- It would reduce turnovers
- It would result in fewer evictions
- It would demonstrate that housing challenge in cities is distribution not density
An Economic Argument

What will the vouchers cost?

Increase in federal housing subsidy by $23 billion to a total of $60 billion

Currently, we spend $171 billion in tax benefits to homeowners. Amount is more than total budget of departments of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Veteran Affairs and Agriculture combined

# Imperatives of USA Colleges & Universities

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Live Long and Prosper:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQ66DvdojR8
needs to be more than just an emoji

No one is home until we are all home
Sources and Citations

Desmond, Matthew  Evicted Poverty and Profit in the American City, Crown 2016.


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