

Affordable Housing Comes With Hefty Price Tag



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A new affordable housing community is coming to Palm Springs. A lot of financial support is going into the complex.

Construction has started on the 57-unit, Rosa Gardens Apartments, just west of North Indian Canyon Drive.

"Yeah, much needed for low income people," said one Palm Springs resident.

While rent will be low, quality will be high. The complex will have a playground, swimming pool, community center, and will be LEED certified.

The cost is estimated at roughly \$19 Million dollars. It's funded by a variety of different sources. Some of the money will come from the Palm Springs Redevelopment Agency.

"That's, what, \$350 thousand per unit? That's pretty expensive," said Tony Zawaideh, who has lived in Palm Springs for ten years.

"That's an awful lot of money. I didn't pay that (much) for (my home). That's an awful lot of money," said Barbara Pearce, a Palm Springs homeowner.

The Coachella Valley Housing Coalition, which oversees the project, says Palm Springs' contribution to the project is roughly \$1.6 Million dollars.

Palm Springs is not the only valley city building affordable housing complexes.

Palm Desert has contributed tens of millions of dollars in the past five years, according to Janet Moore, Palm Desert's Director of Housing.

"While the city may not benefit monetarily by building affordable housing, there are community wide benefits, such as having people live close to where they work or go to school," Moore said in an email.

Earlier this year, La Quinta opened Wolff Waters Apartments, which had a preliminary price tag of \$90 Million dollars. The city's share was estimated at roughly \$30 Million.

Doug Evans, La Quinta's Assistant City Manager, says cities, with redevelopment agencies, are required by the state to have a certain amount of affordable housing units. Redevelopment funds can't be used for anything else, he said.

