



OPINION

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We're housing advocates, not 'left-wing activists'

Labels should not suggest that people who favor affordable dwellings are zealots

To the editor:

Re "[Think this City Council is tough on business? Just wait](#)" (Aug. 21):

Since when are affordable housing advocates "left-wing activists"? As the same characterization used in this article was found in July 11's "[The price of being the king of affordable housing](#)," it should be called out.

In the New York I know, reasonable people can, and always have, approached the goal of achieving more affordable housing in different ways. Mayors have long committed to affordable housing as a primary goal of city government, though with varying degrees of success. Nonprofit developers like WHEDco have worked both as sole developers and in partnership with for-profit entities in this space for decades, and I doubt our partners would call us political zealots.

We can disagree about where and how affordable housing should be built, the essential role of community-based nonprofit developers, what true affordability means, and how to best protect families from being forced from their homes and neighborhoods. But to characterize a commitment to building housing that is affordable to the poorest New Yorkers as "left wing" is wrong, dismissive, and dangerous.

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Link: <http://www.craigslist.com/article/20170908/OPINION/170909918/were-housing-advocates-not-left-wing-activists>