



Chason Development wants to build the 154-unit Las Aguas apartments on a 5-acre site along McDowell Road in Scottsdale. RENDERING BY BERRY RIDDELL & ROSENSTEEL LLC

APARTMENTS

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does not stem from a dislike for renters.

"I grew up in Phoenix and when I moved to Scottsdale I rented because I couldn't afford a home in Scottsdale because they're expensive," he said. "But I saved up and got a home in Scottsdale. That's the way you do it."

Apartment developers often say more people with high incomes and the ability to own a home are choosing instead to rent apartments.

"They're living more for a lifestyle, living among where they shop, dine and entertain themselves," said Ian Swiergol, managing director of Alliance Residential Co., which is developing 259

apartments at the Scottsdale Waterfront.

Phillips disagrees with this assertion. "Right now, I was told our ratio is 2 to 1 on single family vs. multifamily," he said. "I don't want more apartments than single-family homes because the single-family home is the American dream. Nobody grows up and says someday I hope to rent. You rent to save, to buy. That's the way it is."

Phillips said he doesn't plan to vote against all apartments, just those that involve rezoning from other uses.

"If the land is available to build apartments and the guy buys it and wants to build apartments, I wouldn't vote no," he said. "It's when they buy land cheap and rezone, and make money off it and glut

the city with more apartments that we don't need."

Phillips said he voted against Alta Scottsdale because it "doesn't fit the area" and there are no other four-story buildings within a square mile of the site.

"And you're forcing a project on people who don't want it so you can make money, and it's of no benefit to the neighborhood," he said.

As for Las Aguas, Phillips said people knew there was a car dealership on the site when they bought their homes.

"There's too many ifs," he said. "You don't really know if they're going to build it. You don't know if once it's approved if they're going to change the design and add more height and density

like most of them do. We don't say OK, this is the plan that you're going to build and if you don't build it, it reverts back to the old zoning."

Phillips would like to see the council discuss the city's future and how apartments fit into that vision.

"I'm not against apartments, I'm against the idea of overloading us with apartments, pretty much like we overloaded ourselves with bars," he said.

The city Planning Commission will be discussing issues surrounding apartment development at its next meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 10, said Tim Curtis, current planning director.