

Affordable Housing Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2021
Community Development Department
ZOOM
Personalized Participant ID: Delivered via email

Committee Members Present: LeVon Barnes, Laura Betye, Diane Catotti, Lucia Constantine, Tiffany Elder, Courtney James, I. Jarvis Martin, Rita R McDaniel, Jon Parker, Venice Sanders, and Angela D. VickLewis

Committee Member Absent: Stella Adams, S. Nicole Diggs, (EA), Tammy Ferrell, Timothy Stallmann (EA), Nicole Furance

City of Durham Staff: Reginald J. Johnson, Karen Lado, and Juliet Black

City of Durham Council Member: Charlie Reece

Durham Housing Authority: Anthony Scott

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Diane Catotti at 6:00 pm.

II. Welcome /Roll Call

The staff clerk took attendance during roll call. The following members asked for excused absences: S. Nicole Diggs and Timothy Stallmann.

III. Review Agenda and Ground Rules

Co-Chair Elder reviewed the agenda and ground rules for the meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 10, 2021, was moved by Courtney James, and Angela VickLewis seconded the motion. Members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

V. Housing Bond Update

Director Reginald J. Johnson said he would discuss a few items regarding Forever Home, Durham Project update, Eviction Diversion, and the Durham Emergency Rental Program. The presentation was based on a request from Affordable Housing Implementation Committee (AHIC) members. **(Presentation attached).**

Questions were allowed after the presentation: How much bond money is spent on rapid rehousing? None of the bond money is spent on rehousing. Bond money can only be spent on bricks and more. Rapid Rehousing is a service, and most of the funds for this service come from Homeless Services. **How much money has been spent on rapid rehousing since the pandemic?** Mr. Johnson will get back to her on the figures. **Since the end of the recent reporting timeframe in June, what is the current trend with eviction diversion efforts?** It has increased.

Have all 6,000 applications been processed? Mr. Johnson would like to get that information from the County and report it correctly.

Are there any programmatic changes to ERAP to help get the money out faster in light of the eviction moratorium and the new treasury or the new guidance from the treasury? Changes are being made daily, and adjustments are made, such as weekly meetings. **What are some of the changes under consideration now?** Self-attestation, where residents can attest to the bill they owe, as documentation is required.

What steps have been put into place to keep tenants from getting behind again? Residents can receive a total of 12 months. ERAP 2 is extended to 18 months, which they could get additional six months in ERAP2 (depending on funds available).

VI. Forever Home Website Update

Ms. Karen Lado introduced moss+ross. Jenny Pilewski from mott+ross gave a thorough overview of the website. The website can be found at www.foreverhomedurham.com.

Questions were allowed after the presentation: Comments were positive. **Is it possible to expand the website to show the community what the needs are in Durham?** Part of the big goal of the communication plan is to ensure everybody understands the reality and could probably tell some impact stories and features.

VII. DHA Property Updates

Anthony Scott, CEO of Durham Housing Authority (DHA), gave an update. They have still in the process of filling vacancies and continue to have issues with completing work orders. The work order call line is still not in place due to software challenges. They are still working with tenants to apply for ERAP. **(Presentation attached)**.

Questions were allowed after the presentation. What other means do you have to reach tenants other than knocking on doors? DHA is facing the issue that emails and phone numbers are not valid? All family sites are receiving free internet; McDougal Terrace was the first site. They are working on getting it for all of their residents. **Are there any special qualifications needed to knock on resident's doors – can you hire DHA tenants?** DHA has had quite a bit of turnover there, and a resident was hired. It's not just knocking, but they have to go through a series of things, dealing with government bureaucracy. **Would love to hear from residents who have gone back into a new renovation and get residents to speak about how they feel things are going?** French West Vaughan has mentioned this as well. DHA would like to hear the stories as well.

VII. Discussion

Co-Chair Catotti acknowledge former Mayor Bill Bell for attending the meeting. No discussion – questions were asked after each presentation.

VIII. Public Comments

No public comments

IX. Wrap Up/Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm