

Mayor Castor's Advisory Teams
Affordable Housing Advisory Team – 2nd Meeting
Co-Chair Bemetra Simmons
Co-Chair Rev. Dr. Tom Scott
Co-Chair Tyler Hudson
Monday, September 16, 2019 at 03:00 P.M.
SC. Blythe Andrews Library
2607 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Tampa, Florida 33602

Advisory Members present: Co-Chair Tyler Hudson, Co-Chair Bemetra Simmons, Co-Chair Rev. Tom Scott, Ernest Coney, Marianne Edmonds, Brett Azzarelli, Pete Edwards, Harry Hedges, Yvette Lewis, Sul Hemani, LeRoy Moore, Debra Reyes, Darrell Robertson, Rebecca Snyder, Antoinette Triplet, Kim Overman, Machel Manor, Mickey Jacob, and Jim Weiss.

Transition Team and staff present: Transition Lead Carole Post, Advisory Co-Chair Harry Cohen, Advisory Co-Chair Sonya Little, Director of Planning and Development Thomas Snelling, Director of Strategic Initiatives Marley Wilkes, Marketing and Communications Director Ashley Bauman, Chief Assistant City Attorney Ernest Mueller, Planning and Development Director Thomas Snelling, Housing and Community Development Manager Vanessa McCleary, Community Development Coordinator Kayon Henderson, Assistant City Attorney II Rachel Peterkin, and City Clerk Support Technician Karencia Cigala.

Co-chair Harry Cohen introduced a guest speaker from the County Commission, **Kimberly Overman**, to speak about housing initiatives at the County. She suggested getting ahead of the curve by working with the county. The Board of County Commissioners recently made a commitment to invest in affordable housing and is seeking to stabilize the community and create wealth and value. Safe houses are needed for the 11,000 students in school that are homeless. The Board of County Commissioners are reorganizing their Affordable Housing Board to make sure everyone is at the table. City Councilman Orlando Gudes is on the board.

Transition Lead Carole Post thanked Commissioner Overman and agreed that a collaborative approach would be helpful. She then reviewed the packet of materials for today's meeting. At the last meeting, the team raised good points and must know the current state of affairs to provide concrete recommendations. She asked the team to look at this information as a toolbox, which includes an acronym list.

Team brainstorming discussions:

- Bring private and public sectors to the table
- Need to find partner agencies to help with down payment assistance programs
- Need a go-to source for all programs – such as a 911-type number for affordable housing
- Educate the masses as to terminology, banking terms, credit reporting terms
- Need to encourage not discourage – use common language for lay people
- What does it take to get assistance, how to access and partner with other agencies
- Need guides to help navigate the system for more than 50 programs

- How to get more people sustainable funding with layers of issues
- Mayor can create environment with League of Cities and Florida Chamber
- Create flyer to help with understanding/conversation
- Send letters to Governor/Senate/Representatives to obtain funding for expertise programs
- Code incentives – green space/sidewalks – define/select housing to decrease blighted areas
- Need mayor to champion dedicated funding source – task force - knock down lending barriers
- City/county to look into (variety) tiny /container housing – don't need 3 – 4 bedroom homes
- Need simple/easy wording for new code laws for community to understand
- Compare other markets with less requirements (Washington D.C. and New York)
- Need legislatures to include affordable housing funds
- Research San Jose program – changes fee to sq. footage rather than per unit – for smaller home construction – quality homes – not subsidized
- Grant programs/recycle funds – 50 homes in a year's time – replicate that
- Container homes – educate public and work together - high end of low-income housing
- Existing lands consider rezoning – no land bank available – demolitions are put on market
- Tiny homes/land – need dedicated land
- County may have some land for swapping – zoning changes
- Design Community to work – container/prefab homes, to change zoning requirements/bonus, parking/savings put back in the community, zoning issues
- Designate a funding pool

Transition Lead Carole Post stated that the advisory teams are complimentary to each other, the team has hit on key ideas. Need to determine how to measure our success, identify in rough outline and provide it to members before the next meeting.

Public Comments

Leroy Moore stated that the biggest issue he sees is that everyone needs to vote.

Advisory Team Co-Chair Harry Cohen told members that at the next meeting the draft document should focus, or rather simplify on paper, their ideas. **Advisory Team Co-Chair Sonya Little** told the team that at the next meeting they will formulate actionable plans. **Transition Lead Carole Post**, said that the team will break up into work groups at the next meeting, and if anyone wants to submit additional information, to please send it to Marley Wilkes.

Next Meeting:
Monday, October 7, 2019 at 3:00 P.M.
Hunt Community Center
4810 N. Himes Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33614