

RICHLAND COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES
COMMITTEE AGENDA



Thursday, MAY 21, 2020

1:00 PM

ZOOM MEETING

The Honorable Allison Terracio, Chair

County Council District 5

The Honorable Gwen Kennedy

County Council District 7

The Honorable Jim Manning

County Council District 8

The Honorable Chip Jackson

County Council District 9

The Honorable Chakisse Newton

County Council District 11

RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL 2020



Bill Malinowski
District 1
2018-2022



Joyce Dickerson
District 2
2016-2020



Yvonne McBride
District 3
2016-2020



Paul Livingston
District 4
2018-2022



Allison Terracio
District 5
2018-2022



Joe Walker, III
District 6
2018-2022



Gwendolyn Kennedy
District 7
2016-2020



Jim Manning
District 8
2016-2020



Calvin "Chip" Jackson
District 9
2016-2020



Dalhi Myers
District 10
2016-2020



Chakisse Newton
District 11
2018-2022



Richland County Development & Services Committee

May 21, 2020 - 1:00 PM
Zoom Meeting
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The Honorable Allison Terracio
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** The Honorable Allison Terracio
 - a. Regular Session: April 28, 2020 [PAGES 7-13]
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** The Honorable Allison Terracio
4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**
 - a. I move to direct the County Attorney to work with the County Administrator to research and draft an absentee landlord ordinance. The ordinance should provide potential remedies for individuals who violate county ordinances and provide, via supplemental documentation, a comprehensive review of the legal impacts [potentially] associated with the adoption of such an ordinance. [NEWTON and DICKERSON] [UNDER SEPARATE COVER]
 - b. Affordable Housing Trust Fund request [PAGES 14-85]
5. **ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS: NO ACTION REQUIRED**
 - a. I propose the change of the Animal Care Officer's official title to that of "Animal Welfare Officer" within our county's ordinances. "Animal Care Officer" tends to be a bit confusing for those in the public who do not fully understand what they do, and "Animal Control Officer" tends to have a derogatory connotation. The field of animal welfare/care has dramatically changed within recent years. A title of "Animal Welfare Officer" offers a broader understanding of what their duties entail.

[MALINOWSKI, DICKERSON, JACKSON,
MANNING and McBRIDE]

6. ADJOURNMENT



Special Accommodations and Interpreter Services Citizens may be present during any of the County's meetings. If requested, the agenda and backup materials will be made available in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), as amended and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Any person who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting may request such modification, accommodation, aid or service by contacting the Clerk of Council's office either in person at 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC, by telephone at (803) 576-2061, or TDD at 803-576-2045 no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.



Richland County Council

DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 28, 2020 – 2:30 PM

Zoom Video Conference

2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Chair; Gwen Kennedy, Jim Manning, Calvin Jackson and Chakisse Newton

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Livingston, Bill Malinowski, Dalhi Myers, Michelle Onley, Larry Smith, Clayton Voignier, John Thompson, Ashiya Myers, Leonardo Brown, Angela Weathersby, Tariq Hussain, Stephen Staley, Dale Welch, Stacey Hamm, Kimberly Williams-Roberts, Michael Maloney, Brad Farrar, Dante Roberts, Jennifer Wladischkin and Ashley Powell

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Terracio called the meeting to order at approximately 2:34 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. **February 25, 2020** – Mr. Malinowski requested that his name be added to the minutes as being in attendance.

Mr. Manning stated, with regard to the Election of the Chair, it was suggested the nomination be accepted by acclamation. Two of the five members were not present; therefore, he did not vote in favor of acclamation. The minutes do not reflect that, and he would like for them to.

Ms. Kennedy moved, seconded by Mr. Manning, to approve the minutes as corrected.

In Favor: Terracio, Kennedy and Jackson

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to adopt the agenda as published.

Ms. Terracio moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to add a sewer service update to the end of the meeting.

Mr. Livingston inquired if the item regarding Affordable Housing was on tonight's agenda.

Ms. Terracio stated the agenda for tonight's meeting had already been set prior to her making the motion.

Mr. Malinowski requested additional information regarding the item Ms. Terracio suggested adding to the agenda.

Ms. Terracio stated Ms. Myers wanted to briefly address the committee.

Ms. Myers stated it was to give an update on the Southeast Sewer Project. The project is rapidly underway to repair the schools.

Mr. Malinowski suggested placing this under the Chair's report at the next Council meeting.

Ms. Terracio withdrew her motion.

In Favor: Terracio, Kennedy, Jackson and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

- a. Fiber Joint Trench during Southeast Sewer Project – Ms. Terracio stated staff originally recommended to deny this item. However, we do have an updated recommendation from staff.

Dr. Thompson stated, on this particular item, the briefing document only points you to the date of February 19th. Since February 19, we have faced COVID-19, which has changed the way we do business. It has altered our activities of daily living. With some information we received from the State Superintendent of Education, we understand there is a digital...

Mr. Manning stated the original briefing document was reviewed by Finance, Budget and Legal. He does not believe the updated recommendation has been reviewed by these departments.

Dr. Thompson responded the financials in the briefing document do not change. We were trying to make a business case for burying conduits and fiber optic lines in the Southeast portion of the County. As he mentioned, based on information that was received from the State Superintendent of Education about the digital divide in South Carolina, and the conversation he had with Richland School District One's Executive Director for Information Technology, who informed him that many families in the Southeast portion of the County receives hotspots from the local cellphone providers. However, those students were not able to use those hotspots because of the poor cellphone signals in that area. Moreover, as we understand, many people in the area are battling chronic diseases, and they have different doctor appointments. Now, more than ever, telemedicine has become so important. If they are not able to have a reliable signal they are not able to utilize telemedicine; therefore, their exposure increases if they have to go to a doctor's appointment or hospital to receive services. If we were to only bury the conduit it would cost \$1.7M. If we were to bury the conduit and fiber optic lines, it would increase the cost to \$2.8M.

Ms. Newton stated, it is her understanding, this matter is time sensitive. If it is an action Council is going to take, it only makes sense to do it once the ground is open, and the ground is currently open. One of the other things that has changed, since the original document was prepared, is that up to 75% of the cost is reimbursable through the CARES Act, and that information was not available before.

Dr. Thompson stated, for clarification, staff has not confirmed reimbursement through the CARES Act; however, staff is awaiting information from our contractor regarding that matter.

Ms. Newton inquired if that information would be available prior to next week's Council meeting.

Dr. Thompson responded they anticipate receipt of that information, and will share with Council members upon its receipt.

Mr. Malinowski stated he tends to disagree that the financials do not change. The financials, which were provided for this item, do not include \$1.7M. Therefore, he believes we need additional information on where the funds are coming from, since it could affect the monthly sewer rates. He would think there would need to be a budget and legal review to address anything we may open the County up to by putting the fiber in the ground. In addition, who will be responsible for maintaining the conduit? We were told in the briefing that the fiber companies are not interested in it, or already have something.

Mr. Smith responded, if there is not any information on how this is going to be maintained, those are questions we need to make sure we know the answer to before Council makes a policy decision.

Mr. Jackson stated, in Districts 8 and 9, we are going through a process where there are proposed rate hike for sewer services. It has a number of people alarmed because some of the questions being raised today were not raised then, and were not answered. As a result of that, residents' sewer bills are going to jump 60 – 70%, if the requested rate hike is approved by PFC. He suggested proceeding with caution to get those questions answered, before we move forward to prevent the citizens from receiving an unexpected rate hike in the future.

Ms. Kennedy agreed that we need additional information.

Ms. Newton also agreed that we need additional information. She requested that we hear from our expert, and forward this to Council without a recommendation. The situation with this project is that economy of scale you get you only get because the ground is open now. Therefore, it is a time sensitive issue.

Mr. Jim Stritzinger, Revolution D, Inc., specializes in the analysis of broadband deployment in the United States. He is studying the Federal Communications Commission data. He also partners with a company called Ookla in Seattle to do internet speed testing. He has mapped all 46 counties in South Carolina for the SC Hospital Association, as well as Palmetto Care Connections, and was recently engaged by the SC Telecommunications and Broadband Association to remap the State and document it, as of December 31, 2019.

Mr. Stritzinger stated, as a resident of Richland County, and an advocate of connecting everybody on the planet, it has never been more apparent, in light of COVID-29, of how important it is to connect our residents to the internet. It has become obvious that internet service is the platform, and foundation, for economic development, healthcare, K-12 education, and overall quality of life. Nationally, there is best practice that has become known as a “dig once policy”. It is something easily googled and find a lot of information on. It has become public policy in a lot of community where they have adopted the best practice that if you are going to dig up the road for water and sewer projects you might as well achieve some uplift in other areas of economic development, at the same time. In this case, Dr. Thompson made him aware of the water and sewer project in Lower Richland. Also, from his previous research and work with Councilwoman Dickerson over the years they have been studying the number of disconnected residents in Richland County. There is approximately 12,000 residents of the County that do not have access to the internet at home. Those people live in predominantly two areas: the Monticello Road Corridor and Lower Richland. When he refers to access, it has nothing to do with affordability. Access means having access to physical infrastructure. If you do not have access you never the choice to adopt technology into your family home. Fiber is the way of the future. If we want to connect these residents, we have to have fiber in the main traffic corridors. The best, and cheapest, time to do that is while the road are open. It can be done efficiently, and in partnership with others, inexpensively. There are two things that can be done: (1) Installation of conduit, which is like a straw in the ground. The conduit facilitates inexpensive delivery of fiber later. It does not have to be done at the same time. (2) Installation

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of conduit and fiber at the same time. It is a best practice to open the road one time and put conduit in. Of course, time is of the essence with the Lower Richland project because the ground is currently open. If you can get fiber into the right places it will allow you to provide for residential connectivity and provide the platform for improving cellular service. Cellular service is delivered in a network of towers. At the base of every tower, you have to have fiber optic cable going to the tower or it does not work. As a County resident, he would love to help the Lower Richland residents get connected.

Ms. Dickerson stated that Congressman Clyburn has also gotten engaged in these projects to make sure we expand it.

Mr. Stritzinger stated that he has presented his work to members of Congress in October. This has been a passion of his, and he is rooting hard for the local residents.

Mr. Manning stated, since we have been working on this for years, he assumes the funds have been allocated in the budget.

Dr. Thompson responded that no funds have been allocated. This item was brought forth by Councilwoman Myers.

Ms. Myers stated, for clarification, she brought this forward in the beginning and staff recommended not to proceed. The COVID-19 pandemic shifted the narrative, and rather than it being something nice to do, because of the disconnected students and seniors, the fact the road is currently open, and we might be able to get COVID-19 funding through the CARES Act, it came back around. This is not her sidestepping the process. Mr. Stritzinger has been working on this matter for years, even before she was a Councilmember.

Ms. Newton stated we have all been seeing the digital divide exacerbated by COVID-19, and students who are trying to be educated, etc. One of the things we are looking at is the increased cost for the project. As Mr. Stritzinger has looked at other municipalities, who have borne the cost of putting fiber in the line, how has he seen it "shake-out", in terms of recouping the investment?

Mr. Stritzinger responded he believes financially each project comes together in different ways, with the cost-sharing done differently. He worked most recently with Kershaw and Fairfield Counties to go after USDA grants. The USDA is one of the primary providers of rural broadband subsidy around the United States. There are different ways to create the financial synergy to make projects come to life. In this particular case, the first cost element that needs to be looked at is the cost of the conduit itself, and getting that in the ground. If that cost could be overcome and satisfied quickly, it is probably the cheapest possible opportunity to get the conduit in the ground, and will certainly hasten the delivery of fiber into Lower Richland.

Ms. Newton inquired, if Mr. Stritzinger had seen an example of a county/municipality that has installed the conduit first, and then sold the fiber, or how has that worked. The USDA financing is something that would tend to happen on the first end, and we are now at the crux of the moment.

Mr. Stritzinger responded that he did not have a particular project in mind, but he could do some research. The "Dig Once" strategy is a national strategy, so using those two words you can easily document other case studies around the United States.

Mr. Malinowski stated that Mr. Stritzinger referenced working with Kershaw and Fairfield Counties recently. He inquired if some type of monetary remuneration was received by Mr. Stritzinger for working with them.

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Mr. Stritzinger responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if Mr. Stritzinger could stand to benefit monetarily if you were to assist Richland County, as well.

Mr. Stritzinger responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski stated the briefing document says, when carriers and internet service providers were asked for feedback, they responded with no interest, one did not respond, and two companies stated they already have their fiber lines where the project is planned to go. So, why would we want to add conduit, if two companies already have their fiber there.

Mr. Stritzinger responded that he is not familiar with those discussions.

Dr. Thompson stated staff conducted the research, and these were the responses received in February. He had an opportunity to connect with Mr. Stritzinger and the School District's Information Technology Executive Director last week. Everything that he has learned has become a new development, as of last week.

Mr. Malinowski stated Spectrum and AT&T already have their fiber lines where the project is planned.

Ms. Dickerson responded those two entities have been the obstacles preventing broadband being brought to South Carolina. We have been trying to figure out a way to get around that to allow other people to come in, whereby we could lower the costs of providing broadband to these areas.

Ms. Myers knows staff was told those companies had fiber deployed in those areas. She can guarantee that if they had fiber deployed the children and seniors who need high speed internet access would have it. There is stranded fiber deployed in some places, but it is not anything approaching what you would need to have a real network. The reason she feels this is urgent, at this time, for all of Richland County, given that our students are working from home, many of them taking home packets of paper to do their work, and not having Zoom classes because they cannot have them. In February, when we first talked about this, she agreed the financial constraints were different, and it was a nice to do thing. At this point, we are at a different moment, and we know that in September COVID-19 will be back. We have the opportunity to shave off \$10,000, from opening up the road, to put in a \$1M white tube that companies will come along and blow fiber into. She knows that Dr. Thompson said that he had conversations with companies who said they were not interested. She has forwarded to Dr. Thompson information from companies that are interested, and would be interested in buying it, so the only cost would be in opening the road, which we have already done. She read the CARES Act and it is her understanding is that broadband is one of the things that we can get reimbursed for. She would like for us to think critically about all of Richland County, and making internet access ubiquitous on high speed, and not just satellite that drops off when it rains. She agrees with Ms. Dickerson that AT&T and Sprint have been barriers to getting this service because they want to have a monopoly on the hijacked pricing services they provide that they call high speed internet that costs residents \$150/month, and the service is not available when it rains because it is satellite-based. This is an opportunity, not an obstacle. The ground is open. We have already spent that money. She would suggest wherever we are opening the ground across Richland County to put the conduit in, so that someone else can come along and pay us to blow fiber.

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to send this item to Council without a recommendation through the Coronavirus Ad Hoc Committee.

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Ms. Terracio stated, for clarification, is the motion to send this item to another committee.

Mr. Manning responded in the affirmative. Any time before the appropriate motion would be to hold this in committee for additional information; however, he is aware of the sensitivity of the time to this. His understanding for why this is unique is because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the possibility of reimbursement through the CARES Act. It seemed to him it would be appropriate to send it through the Coronavirus Ad Hoc because we do not have the funding. When this originally went to Finance, staff's recommendation was not to proceed with this, so their recommendation was easy. Now, the recommendation has changed, but it has not been rerouted to Finance for their thoughts on the matter. If this motion is not approved, he would be glad to hold it in committee so that it can be rerouted, with the updated recommendation.

Mr. Livingston stated he needs to know what Spectrum and AT&T specifically mean, when they say they have fiber lines in the ground where the sewer system is being built, and why the residents are not connected to it. He inquired if the \$1.7M is only for the conduit.

Dr. Thompson responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Livingston stated so we have no commitment, or what would happen, at this point.

Dr. Thompson stated, at this time, staff cannot give an assessment because we have no commitment.

Ms. Terracio inquired, if this item would go to full Council next week, if the motion on the floor were to be approved.

Mr. Livingston responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Stritzinger stated he has completed maps of Richland County to notate where residents live that do not have internet connectivity at home. Lower Richland is very behind, in terms of internet capability. He would be happy to provide those maps to Council members, so they can have a reference point.

Mr. Livingston stated there may have been a time when a committee transferred something to another committee, but he would like a legal opinion on that matter.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to forward to Council without a recommendation, and request staff to provide the additional information requested.

In Favor: Terracio, Jackson and Newton

Opposed: Manning

The vote was in favor of the substitute motion.

- b. Approval to Request Funding for a Proposed Turn Lane on Highway 378 – Ms. Terracio stated staff's recommendation is to proceed with requesting funds for the Highway 378 turn lane portion of the SCDOT's upcoming Highway 378 Widening Project.

Mr. Manning inquired if there was any changes to staff's recommendation.

Mr. Staley responded the only update is that this item was projected to be placed on the April 28th Transportation Ad Hoc Committee agenda, but due to current situation with COVID-19, it

did not make that deadline. They will attempt to get this on the June CTC Committee, and request the funds.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve staff's recommendation.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if we have had any crash data provided.

Mr. Staley responded this was something that came about through the Risk Management Office's safety audit. Getting in and out of the drop-off center is dangerous.

Mr. Malinowski requested Mr. Staley obtain the crash data. Additionally, he inquired if we have advertised this project.

Mr. Staley responded that they are requesting funding from CTC first.

Mr. Malinowski stated he understands we are requesting funding from the CTC, but we have figures in front of us about what the cost will be. He inquired if that means when the project is advertised we say they cannot go over the stated dollar amount.

Mr. Staley responded, in the past, they have gone back to the CTC, if the cost went over, and they have provided additional funding.

Mr. Manning made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to forward this item, and the following item, to Council without a recommendation.

In Favor: Terracio, Kennedy, Manning, Jackson and Newton.

The vote in favor of the substitute motion was unanimous.

- c. Petition for Abandonment and Closure of Hamrick Avenue (TMS # R11204-02-06) and Seabrook Street (TMS # R11204-02-06) in Columbia, South Carolina - This item was taken in the previous motion.

5. **ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS: NO ACTION REQUIRED**

- a. I move to direct the County Attorney to work with the County Administrator to research and draft an absentee landlord ordinance. The ordinance should provide potential remedies for individuals who violate county ordinances and provide, via supplemental documentation a comprehensive review of the legal impacts [potentially] associated with the adoption of such an ordinance [NEWTON and DICKERSON] - No action was taken on this item.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:29 PM.

**RICHLAND COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION**

2020 Hampton Street, Suite 4069
Columbia, SC 29204
803-576-2050



Agenda Briefing

Prepared by: Elizabeth McLean, Deputy County Attorney
Department: Legal
Date Prepared: May 13, 2020 **Meeting Date:** May 21, 2020

Budget Review	James Hayes via email	Date:	May 13, 2020
Finance Review	Stacey Hamm via email	Date:	May 13, 2020
Approved for Council consideration:	County Administrator	Leonardo Brown, MBA, CPM	
Committee	Administration & Finance		
Subject:	Affordable Housing Trust Fund request		

Recommended Action:

Council discretion.

Motion Requested:

If council so desires:

I move that Administration find existing budgetary funding possibilities for enactment of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and bring all options back to Council for review.

Request for Council Reconsideration: Yes

Fiscal Impact:

Any dollars committed by Council would need to come from the General Fund in an amount decided by Council. The proposal requests at least \$500,000. The Office of Budget and Grants Management has indicated costs cannot be absorbed without redirecting funds from other budgeted areas. Additionally, the Finance Department has requested other sources of funding be considered.

Motion of Origin:

There is no associated Council motion of origin.

Council Member	
Meeting	
Date	

Discussion:

Legal, as well as several Council members, received an email from Ms. Kalli Bunch from MORE Justice Ministry, requesting that the County pass an ordinance enacting an Affordable Housing Trust Fund, as provided in SC Code of Laws, Section 31-22-10, et al. (see attachments)

As a part of the proposal, MORE Justice requests that Richland County have a referendum to enact a tax to collect money to fund the AHTF. Unfortunately, there is no statute allowing the County to have a referendum for this purpose. Additionally, enacting such a tax would violate the provision of the enabling legislation, cited above. Thus, if the Council would like to implement such a program, funds would need to come from those sources already available (i.e. general fund).

If Council wishes to proceed, there is an draft ordinance provided in the attachments which can be adjusted to work for the County, as needed.

Attachments:

1. Requestors email (with attachments)

ASHIYA MYERS

From: Larry Smith <larry24nccu@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 7:04 PM
To: ELIZABETH MCLEAN
Subject: FW: MORE Justice Follow Up - Affordable Housing Trust Fund Informationand Draft Ordinance/Referendum Language
Attachments: Trust Fund Priorities.pdf; Draft referendum question language 1 (1).docx; Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Information Packet_MORE Justice_FINAL.pdf

Beth,

Please give me aa call regarding this matter on Monday.

Thanks!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [MORE Justice Ministry](#)
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 12:05 PM
To: larry24nccu@gmail.com
Cc: [Allison Terracio](#); [Paul Livingston](#)
Subject: MORE Justice Follow Up - Affordable Housing Trust Fund Informationand Draft Ordinance/Referendum Language

Good Morning, Mr. Smith:

I appreciate our conversation last week regarding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) for Richland County. As requested, I've attached a packet that we sent to a few of our County Council Members (including Councilman Livingston and Councilwoman Terracio, copied here) containing more information about the AHTF as well as four examples of sample legislation from other communities and draft wording for our own ordinance. (As a note, we were unable to add page numbers to each page in the document, but if you view it in "thumbnail view", the page numbers should be visible there).

We anticipate a motion being made on this coming Tuesday for the establishment of an AHTF in Richland County and for that to go to the Development and Services Committee. Additionally, an AHTF needs a dedicated source of annual funding to be successful and in order to achieve that there has been discussion of a public referendum to take place in November 2020. It is our understanding that the deadline for referendum language to be submitted to the Election Commission is August 17th. We understand that is a tight timeline and are hoping to begin to discuss that simultaneously. To that point, I am also attaching a draft of a possible referendum question.

We are working on putting together some draft bylaws for the trust fund and several sample bylaws from other organizations and we will send those to you as soon as they are ready.

Please confirm that you have received this e-mail, and if any other information would be helpful, please don't hesitate to let us know!

Best,

Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF)
Information Packet

Prepared by MORE Justice Housing Committee

12 April 2020

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PART I The Richland County Housing Crisis

1. Housing Fact Sheet for Richland County pg. 3
2. The Impact of Unaffordable Housing on Children & Families pg. 5

PART II The Solution: An Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF)

3. AHTF Narrative pg. 6
4. Commonly Asked Questions about AHTFs pg. 7
5. South Carolina Enabling Legislation: The Mescher Act (2007) pg. 9
6. Public Safety and Economic Impact of AHTFs pg. 11
7. Sample AHTF Ordinances from Other Communities:
 - a. City of Pittsburg (PA) pg. 18
 - b. City of San Diego (CA) pg. 29
 - c. City of Bellingham (WA) pg. 40
 - d. Hillsborough County (FL) pg. 49
8. Draft Richland County AHTF Ordinance pg. 61

HOUSING FACT SHEET

Prepared by the MORE Justice Housing Committee

THE “WORKING POOR” CAN’T FIND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- More than 16,000 households in Columbia pay more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities. (Columbia City Consolidated Plan)
- In Richland County, nearly half of renters (44.8%) pay more than a third of their income on rent and utilities. (Richland County Consolidated Plan)
- A person earning minimum wage in Lexington or Richland County would have to work 89 hours a week in order to afford an average one-bedroom apartment at the average price. (NLIHC)
- Often, it is simply a one-time emergency that causes a family to not be able to pay their rent for the month, which can lead to eviction.

THERE IS NOT ENOUGH AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO MEET THE NEED

- There is a significant gap in availability of affordable rental properties for very-low income residents.
 - Rental market gaps are the difference between the number of rental units available in a given price range compared to the number of renters for whom the given price range is the maximum that can be considered affordable.
- In Richland County, less than 4,000 units are available at \$370 per month, even though this is the maximum affordable rent for 13,500 families. That means, there is only one affordable unit per every three families that desperately need it. (Richland County Consolidated Plan)
- There are more than 23,000 families currently on the waiting list for public housing through the Columbia Housing Authority. Additionally, registration for public housing programs has been closed for more than two years. (Columbia City Officials)
- Richland Two School Officials estimate that half of their 28,000 students are “housing insecure.” (Richland 2 McKinney Vento Representative)

PEOPLE ARE GETTING EVICTED AT HIGH RATES

- Columbia, SC has the 8th highest eviction rate of any city in the nation. (Eviction Lab)
- An average of 19 households are evicted every day in Richland County. In Lexington County, it is seven households. (Eviction Lab)
- The main reason that these families are getting evicted at these high rates is because rent prices are too high.
- Racial disparities in access to affordable, quality housing are commonplace – for example, while only about 25% of the local population is made up of black women, black women make up more than 90% of all those evicted in Richland County. (Newberry College Professor)

THERE ARE HIGH SOCIAL COSTS TO UNSTABLE HOUSING

- Not having access to stable housing can lead to different health and social problems.
- In Richland One and Richland Two alone, there are more than 1,500 students registered as “homeless” under the McKinney Vento Act. Homelessness or unstable/unsafe housing leads to poorer academic achievement and health outcomes. (Richland 2 McKinney Vento Rep; Newberry College Professor)
- When students move schools (for example, due to unstable housing) it takes six months to catch up. (Richland 2 McKinney Vento Representative)
- Over a six-year period in the Midlands, less than 500 chronically homeless people accumulated more than \$245 million dollars in Medicaid costs. That is nearly \$600,000 per person. Communities are finding that one way to drive down these medical costs is through the creation of safe, stable housing. (United Way of the Midlands Study)

SOURCES CITED:

- **Richland County Consolidated Plan:**
<http://www.richlandcountysc.gov/Portals/0/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/20170823RCConsolidated.PDF>
- **City of Columbia Consolidated Plan:**
<https://www.columbiasc.net/depts/communitydevelopment/Columbia%20ConPlan%2005-14-2018.pdf>
- **Eviction Lab:** evictionlab.org
- **United Way of the Midlands Healthcare and Homelessness Data Linkage Study:**
<https://www.uway.org/sites/default/files/files/Health%20Care%20and%20Homelessness.pdf>
- **National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC):** <https://nlihc.org/oor/south-carolina>

The Impact of Unaffordable Housing on Children and Families

The lack of affordable housing and the threat of housing insecurity has many negative impacts on children in our communities. This insufficiency of what seems to be such a basic need causes poor school performance and increases in adverse child events/experiences.

Families are forced into crowded homes, to move from one place to another and often times risk their and their children's lives just to have a place to stay. The Department of Health and Human Services has defined housing insecurity as "high housing costs in proportion to income, poor housing quality, unstable neighborhoods, overcrowding, or homelessness".

In 2019, a total of 12,660 children were reported as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act, while an estimated 34,335 are believed to be unreported in South Carolina. Students were arranged into 4 categories: doubled-up (living with others), hotels/motels, sheltered and unsheltered.

Children in grades kindergarten to 5th grade are the largest segment of this group, representing 52% of that 12,660. Adolescents who experience school moves are 50% more likely not to graduate from high school. Children at this age with more than 2 school moves are 2.5 times more likely to repeat a grade. High schoolers make up the next largest section, representing 24%. They have a 63% graduation rate, which is a 21% decrease compared to the average rate of 84%.

The experience of housing-insecurity also places children at risk for ACE exposure. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that can have negative, long-lasting effects on health and well-being. Children at risk for neglect are significantly more likely to be from families experiencing housing unaffordability and housing instability. There are also reports of physical and emotional abuse, financial exploitation and sex-trafficking while staying in shelters, on the streets, and "doubled-up" with acquaintances, family, or strangers. According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, 83% of homeless children have been exposed to at least one serious violent event by the age of 12 and almost 25 percent have witnessed acts of violence within their families.

The lack of affordable, stable housing is hurting our children. It is our duty as citizens, community members, and leaders, to do something about this.

What is an Affordable Housing Trust Fund?

Housing is considered “affordable” when 30% or less of one’s income is spent on housing and utilities costs (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - HUD). Affordable Housing Trust Funds (AHTFs) are established by elected government bodies—at the city, county or state level—where a source or sources of public revenue are dedicated, by ordinance or law, to a distinct fund with the express purpose of providing affordable housing. In South Carolina, the Mescher Act (2007) requires this fund to be placed in a non-profit entity. The dedicated public revenue then leverages more money from public and private funds. On average, \$8.50 is leveraged for every \$1 dedicated to the HTF (Center for Community Change). The money in a HTF does not fund an entire project, but it is used as gap funding for developers to construct affordable housing for those with 80% or less of the Area Median Income (AMI).

The HTF is typically governed by a board that oversees and hires staff, reviews requests for proposals (RFP), and then approves/denies these requests. Requests for HTF dollars can be made by non-profit developers, for-profit developers, housing authorities, governmental agencies, and regional organizations. The funds can be distributed in a variety of forms, including, but not limited to grants, long-term, low interest loans, or forgivable or deferred loans.

The kinds of eligible activities that HTF can support are:

- new construction (single or multi-family)
- preservation/rehabilitation of existing housing (single or multi-family)
- housing for senior citizens
- transitional housing (homeless, domestic violence, ex-offenders)
- low (80% AMI), very low (50% AMI) and extremely low (30% AMI) income levels
- special needs housing

Additional Resources

- Center for Community Change: Housing Trust Fund Project
 - <https://housingtrustfundproject.org/our-project/about/>
- HUD Exchange: Housing Trust Funds
 - <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/htf/>
- SC Mescher Act (attached)
 - <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t31c022.php>

What is an Affordable Housing Trust Fund (HTF)?

What is a Housing Trust Fund (HTF)?

- HTF's are established by elected governmental bodies (at the city, county, or state level). A source or sources of public revenue are dedicated, by ordinance or law, to a distinct fund with the express purpose of providing affordable housing.
- HTF's have been enacted by hundreds of governments across the United States.
- There are more than 780 housing trust funds in existence in the US that generate more than \$1.5 billion a year for affordable housing.

How is the HTF funded?

- HTF's are funded by various public revenue sources. Housing Trust Funds are flexible in that they can be funded from multiple public revenue sources. Some examples are:
 - General fund
 - Bond proceeds
 - Grants
 - Loans from the state and federal government
 - State capital budget
 - Residential impact fees
 - Developer impact fees
 - Document recording fee
 - Tax foreclosure sale
 - Hotel/Motel tax
 - Accommodation tax
 - Inclusionary in-lieu of fees
 - Parking fees

Why are housing trust funds successful?

- HTF's are successful because of their flexibility. The public money allocated to the HTF is a down payment that is backed by sources of other public and private funds. This is called leveraging, because the money in the HTF attracts public and private funds from a variety of sources that would not be available without the trust fund.
 - Sources Leveraged by the Housing Trust Fund
 - Governmental bonds
 - Grants
 - State Funding
 - Federal Funding
 - Low Income Tax Credits
 - Philanthropic Donations
 - Bank Loans

- According to the Center for Community Change, the average amount of public and private funds leveraged for every \$1 in the HTF is \$8.50. The HTF offers a huge return on investment.
 - Examples from across the country
 - In 2004, the Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund used a \$5 million allocation and leveraged \$25 million in other funding to create 200 units of housing. The construction of these new homes resulted in: 200 jobs created during construction, \$1.2 million in new fee and tax revenue, and \$10 million into the local economy. After construction: 94 jobs remained, \$760,000 in new fee and tax revenue, and \$4.4 million in the local economy.
 - In five years, the Connecticut Housing Trust fund used \$57 million in allocations and leveraged \$519 million in other federal, state, local, and private funding to create 2,200 units. This led to over 4,000 jobs created, \$14 million in recurring state and local revenue, and hundreds of millions in economic activity.

How is the housing trust fund administered?

- **Non-Governmental Agency Model:** Typically established by governmental action and then administered by a separate nonprofit or community foundation. Under this model, a board oversees and hires the staff for the nonprofit.

How are the funds distributed?

- There are a variety of ways that funds can be distributed, but the most common are in the form of: grants, loans, forgivable or deferred loans, lines of credit, or rental assistance.
- Requests for proposals (RFP) or notices of funding availability (NOFA) are issued periodically for prospective applicants.

Who can apply for housing trust fund dollars?

- HTF's attract a diverse group of applicants: non-profit developers, for-profit developers, housing authorities, governmental agencies, and regional organizations.

What is the target income?

- Because HTF's utilize public funds, it should meet the public need.
- Most HTF's target a specific income area - generally households at 50% and below of the area median income (AMI), as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

South Carolina Legislature

South Carolina Law > Code of Laws > Title 31

South Carolina Code of Laws Unannotated

Title 31 - Housing and Redevelopment

CHAPTER 22

William C. Mescher Local Housing Trust Fund Enabling Act

SECTION 31-22-10. Legislative findings.

(A) The General Assembly finds:

- (1) Throughout this State, there is a shortage of adequate shelter for South Carolinians including the availability of an affordable residence or permanent domicile with adequate privacy, space, physical accessibility, security, structural stability and durability, and adequate electrical, plumbing, and heating systems.
- (2) Private enterprise and investment has not produced, without government assistance, the needed construction of sanitary, decent, and safe residential housing that people with lower incomes can afford to buy or rent.
- (3) The public's health, safety, and economic interests are best served by the provision of permanent affordable housing because such housing enables South Carolinians to maintain employment, assists this state's children to succeed in school, and helps this state's economic growth and prosperity.

(B) The purpose of this chapter is to authorize a local government to individually or jointly create and operate a local housing trust fund or regional housing trust fund to promote the development of affordable housing, as defined in this chapter.

HISTORY: 2007 Act No. 19, Section 2, eff May 15, 2007.

Editor's Note

2007 Act No. 19, Section 1, provides as follows:

"This chapter may be cited as the 'William C. Mescher Local Housing Trust Fund Enabling Act'."

SECTION 31-22-20. Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter:

- (1) "Affordable housing" means residential housing for rent or sale that is appropriately priced for rent or sale to a person or family whose income does not exceed eighty percent of the median income for the local area, with adjustments for household size, according to the latest figures available from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- (2) "Homeless housing" means emergency, transitional, or permanent residential housing shelter for a person needing special assistance and shelter because he is homeless as defined by HUD or consistent with another definition of homelessness under which a person may receive federal financial assistance, state financial assistance, or another supportive service.
- (3) "Local housing trust fund" (LHTF) means a local government fund separate from the general fund established by the governing authority of a local municipality or county government with one or more dedicated sources of public revenue and authorized expenditures as provided in this chapter.
- (4) "Regional housing trust fund" (RHTF) means a multi-jurisdictional government fund separate from the general fund and established jointly by the governing authorities of one or more municipalities or county governments with one or more dedicated sources of public revenue and authorized expenditures as provided in this chapter.
- (5) "Special needs housing" means housing or shelter provided by private or public entities including privately operated elderly housing, nursing homes, community residential care facilities, and other special needs population housing facilities regardless of purpose or type of facility.

HISTORY: 2007 Act No. 19, Section 2, eff May 15, 2007.

SECTION 31-22-30. Authority to create Local Housing Trust Fund or Regional Housing Trust Fund.

(A) A local government, including a municipality or county, may create and operate an LHTF or RHTF by ordinance, or join an existing trust fund to implement either a local or regional program for affordable housing as defined in this chapter. A local government may jointly form a regional housing trust fund by ordinance. A regional housing trust fund created under this chapter is subject to the same requirement and has the same power as a local housing trust fund created by an individual local government.

(B) A local government that creates an LHTF or RHTF may finance the LHTF or RHTF with money available to the local government through its budgeting authority unless expressly prohibited by the law of this State. Sources of these funds include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- (1) donations;
- (2) bond proceeds; and
- (3) grants and loans from a state, federal, or private source.

The local government may alter a source of funding for the LHTF or RHTF by amending the ordinance that establishes financing for the LHTF or RHTF, but only if sufficient funds exist to cover the projected debts or expenditures authorized by the LHTF or RHTF in its budget. This chapter does not create, grant, or confer a new or additional tax or revenue authority to a local government or political subdivision of the State unless otherwise provided by the law of this State.

(C) A local government operating an LHTF or RHTF shall safeguard the fund in the same manner as the general fund or a separate utility fund established for specific purposes. The LHTF or RHTF may be included in the required financial expense reports or annual audit for each local government.

(D) A local government operating an LHTF or RHTF may allocate funds to a program that promotes the development or rehabilitation of affordable housing as defined in this chapter. Regarding the distribution of funds from an LHTF or RHTF, preference must be given to a program or project that promotes the development or rehabilitation of affordable housing for an individual or family with an annual income at or below fifty percent of the median income for the local area, adjusted for family size according to current data from HUD, the development or rehabilitation of special needs housing, or the development or rehabilitation of homeless housing.

(E) LHTF or RHTF funds may be used to match other funds from federal, state, or private resources, including the State Housing Trust Fund. A local government shall seek additional resources for housing programs and projects to the maximum extent practicable. A local government shall administer its housing trust fund through new or existing nonprofit organizations to encourage private charitable donation to the funds. Where an LHTF or RHTF receives such a donation, the donation must be used and accounted for in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(F) An LHTF or RHTF established, utilized, or funded under this chapter must provide an annual report to the local government that created the fund. The local government shall require the LHTF or RHTF to provide an accounting of its funds each year. This report must be made available to the public by posting on the appropriate website of the local government.

HISTORY: 2007 Act No. 19, Section 2, eff May 15, 2007.

SECTION 31-22-35. Effect of legislation on existing local or regional housing trust funds.

An LHTF or RHTF existing on the effective date of this act shall not be required to alter the existing terms of its governing documents; provided, however, that any alteration or amendment to such governing documents must conform to the provisions of this act.

HISTORY: 2007 Act No. 19, Section 2, eff May 15, 2007.

SECTION 31-22-40. Conflicting laws.

The provisions of this chapter must control where inconsistent with the provisions of another law.

HISTORY: 2007 Act No. 19, Section 2, eff May 15, 2007.

Legislative Services Agency
<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>

The Public Benefits of Safe Affordable Housing

Richland County South Carolina has growing unmet need for safe affordable housing that, to address adequately, will require a considerable investment of public resources. However, public sentiment towards affordable housing is often negative. As verified by local political leaders, “Not in My Backyard” or NIMBY concerns, as well as concerns about higher taxes, are effective at blocking affordable housing developments. The extent of the problem, the size of the investment, and the fact that it impacts others justify providing answers to why the public should want to provide safe affordable housing to as many families as possible.

Perhaps the greatest public benefit of safe affordable housing is its role in keeping thousands of families and children from sliding into homelessness. Already, an estimated 1,600 Richland County school students experienced homelessness over the course of the 2015-16 school year, according to the researchers at the University of South Carolina (2016). But these numbers have the potential to swell even more. The Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies (2019), reports that nearly 30% of Richland County households (44,152)ⁱ experience housing stress by spending over 50% of their income on housing and utilities. A medical emergency or some other unfortunate financial occurrence can place any one of these families in jeopardy of losing their homes. Homelessness already places a great deal of stress on many of our social services, schools, law enforcement, and neighborhoods. Preventing further loss of families to this unfortunate circumstance has to be one of our highest priorities.

In addition to preventing the tragedy of homelessness, safe and affordable housing creates a number of economic outcomes that benefit the public. Researchers at the Center for Housing Policy (2011) highlight the following such benefits.

- **One-time and ongoing job creation and spending** – The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) estimates the creation of as many as 120 jobs during the construction of 100 affordable housing units. Once construction is complete, residents of these units then support as many as 30 new jobs.

- **Positive fiscal impacts for state and local governments** – Local governments tend to gain revenue from permitting and zoning fees, utilities, and property taxes. “The NAHB estimates that 100 units of affordable housing for families generate the same amount of one-time revenue as does a comparable market-rate property.” The Center for Housing Policy shows that the impact of a new affordable housing development on nearby property values is more likely to be neutral or positive than negative, often leading to increased local government property tax revenues.
- **Reducing Foreclosure Risks and Associated Costs** – Low- and moderate-income households that participate in affordable homeownership programs have a much lower risk of delinquency and foreclosure than similar buyers with prime and subprime loans. Reducing foreclosures helps stabilize neighborhoods and saves governments the costs related to property maintenance and/or recovery.
- **Improving Worker and Employer Attraction and Retention** – The need for workforce affordable housing is a growing concern. The Center for Housing Policy (2011) reports survey results that show large employers acknowledging the lack of affordable housing as an impediment to their ability to hold on to qualified employees.
- **Increasing the Buying Power of Residents** – Affordable rent and mortgage payments leave affected families with residual income that is most often used on basic household needs such as food, clothing, healthcare, and transportation. These purchases support the economic viability of the local community.

The Forbes Real Estate Council (2020) notes similar benefits by observing that modern affordable housing (1) attracts diversity, (2) is built on quality that matches or exceeds that of market-rate housing, and (3) provides a boost to local, neighborhood businesses. These traits place affordable rentals in such high demand that they stay rented over a long term and thus provide profitable benefits to its developers, builders, financiers, and managers. The Council also notes that affordable housing rents are reliably paid with the support of vouchers and other subsidies. Comparably, luxury properties have occupancy rates that fluctuate with the economy.

Safe, affordable housing helps to protect public schools, one of our largest public investments.

Richland County spends over a half a billion dollars each year on schools, our county's largest expenditure. Yet, our students perform below state standards on most measures of academic achievement (see latest District Report Cards). The high number of homeless and housing insecure students in our schools contribute to this poor performance. The National Association of Realtors (2016) documents a consistent relationship between housing stability and educational performance. Who can deny the likelihood that a child without certainty about where he or she will sleep is going to present behavioral problems at school? Whereas children in stable homes are more likely to complete high school, have lower incidents of misbehavior of all kind, and benefit from the example of their parents successfully managing a large financial commitment by maintaining their home.

Enterprise Community Partners (2014) note the detrimental effects of housing instability on educational performance. Students who experience homelessness or constant moves are likely to perform poorly not just for a school year, but throughout elementary school. School districts with a critical mass of these students often see high rates of poor performance regardless of their curricular or academic approach. As described by Enterprise Community Partners, homeless students often meet with dire consequences.

These children are more likely than their peers to drop out of school, repeat grades, perform poorly in school, disengage in the classroom, and suffer from learning disabilities and behavior problems. They may struggle to catch up due to high stress, disrupted school attendance and broken bonds with teachers and friends. These factors are compounded by the impact of traumas often associated with homelessness (family violence, economic crises, etc.).

Safe affordable housing helps to keep everyone healthy. The coronavirus pandemic illustrates our health interdependence. Circumstances that tax our health systems can create stress that impacts all parts of the system and affects all users. As explained by Enterprise Community Partners, "housing instability – including high housing costs in proportion to income, poor housing quality, overcrowding and multiple moves– has serious negative impacts on child and adult

health.” The National Poverty Center (2011) documented how unstable living conditions harms both mental and physical health, especially in children. They show that individuals who experienced housing instability within a three-year period are more likely to report anxiety attacks, fair/poor self-rated health, and major or minor depression. Police and emergency room resources are likely to feel the systemic impact of this ill health. As documented by MORE Justice’s work to have law enforcement leaders implement Crisis Intervention Training, police officers are most often called to confront unruly behavior by the mentally ill. This is dangerous work for police officers and not the best treatment for the mentally ill. The effects of unstable housing on children are especially worrisome. A group of physicians writing in the American Journal of Public Health (2011) concluded that “housing insecurity is associated with poor health, lower weight, and developmental risk among young children. Policies that decrease housing insecurity can promote the health of young children and should be a priority.”

Safe, affordable housing is the most efficient way to address the problem of housing insecurity.

What we pay for alternative solutions is more costly and less effective. Temporary and emergency housing may rescue a family for a short period of time but does very little for their long-term security. Using jails and hospitals to deal with health issues resulting from the stress of housing insecurity is expensive and too indirect to be effective. Suspending children from school because of their lack of attention and preoccupation with housing uncertainty only buys a moment of relief for teachers and does nothing for the child.

As Richland County works to bring its revenue and expenditures in-line to prioritize affordable housing, policymakers and planners should understand the public benefits of well-designed affordable housing programs. Such programs are needed now more than ever as evidence shows an increasing number of families qualifying for housing assistance. Stable homes lead to stable communities, more effective schools, improved health, and a stronger economy. It is too expensive for us to not realize these benefits.

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¹ 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Economic Impact of Housing Trust Funds

For housing to be “affordable,” that generally means that a household spends 30 percent or less of its income on rent or mortgage payments and utilities. In Richland County, 45 percent of renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs. That’s more than 22,000 families. As stated in Richland County’s consolidated plan, there are 13,500 families who can only afford rent at \$370 a month. There are, however, less than 4,000 units available with rent that falls within those parameters.

This is not a problem limited to the very poor. Nurses, police officers, firefighters, military service members, and teachers are important – crucial – members of our community who are statistically likely to experience chronic housing affordability problems. The income earned in these fields is often insufficient for the people who work in them to be able to spend only 30 percent of their income on housing expenses. Those in minimum wage jobs are even more challenged. To afford a one-bedroom apartment at the average rent in Richland County, a person working minimum wage would have to work 89 hours a week.

For most of Richland County’s ordinary people, the housing they have is not housing they can really afford. Making rent or a mortgage payment *and* paying for life’s other necessities is a delicate balancing act.

The present gap between the need for affordable housing and its availability causes housing-challenged Richland County residents to have to choose between paying rent or buying groceries and paying for medical necessities. The inability of many people to afford their rent has driven up the number of evictions in Richland County – in 2018, Columbia ranked the eighth highest for the number of evictions among urban areas in the United States. Richland County averages 19 evictions every day. While not every eviction results in homelessness, many do. The economic stress on housing-challenged citizens is severe and can be catastrophic.

But the negative financial effects are not felt just by those who most obviously bear the brunt of this problem. The lack of affordable housing in Richland County is an economic drag on the whole community. The ancillary problems this generates hold back economic growth. They siphon public resources that could be put to better use if those resources did not have to be spent addressing the spinoff problems created by the lack of affordable housing. Evictions precipitated by inability to afford housing take up an inordinate amount of the docket in our magistrates’ courts, driving the need to hire more magistrates and more court staff to deal with the rising tide of eviction actions. Evictions are financially devastating for tenants, but they are also money-losers for landlords. And, of course, more people made homeless when they can no longer afford their rent means more public money spent on dealing with the homeless.

More broadly, without a sufficient supply of affordable housing, employers — and entire regional economies — are at a competitive disadvantage because of their difficulty attracting and retaining workers. When workers leave, this causes companies to have to train a new employee

for the same job, incurring training costs and paying existing employees to train new ones rather than engage in economically productive activity.

Young children in families who live in unstable housing are 20 percent more likely to be hospitalized than those in stable housing. In addition, households with poor housing quality had 50 percent higher odds of an asthma-related emergency room visit during the period of one study. Other research indicates that five percent of hospital patients – who are responsible for half of the health care costs in the U.S. – are, for the most part, patients who live below the poverty line and are housing insecure. As most of these patients are uninsured and unable to pay a hefty hospital bill, these visits are not revenue-generating events for hospitals.

That is the situation Richland County is in now. We call this a quiet crisis because, despite unaffordable housing situations being quite common, those in them rarely complain. They've been in housing challenged situations so long that unaffordable housing seems normal.

It does not have to be that way. Housing trust funds are a free-market solution. There are some 800 communities with housing trust funds in the United States. Those trust funds generate positive economic activity wherever they are. They largely work by providing developers with incentives to build housing affordability into their projects (typically through real property covenants that provide for a rent maximum tied to a percentage of area median income). In exchange for obligating itself to do that, a developer receives money from the trust fund that goes to help pay the costs of the developer's project. Funding from the trust is usually sought through project-specific applications that are vetted and either accepted or denied by the trustee. When completed, the developed property provides a sustainable stock of affordable housing for the community.

An increase in affordable housing lessens the negative community-wide effects of affordable housing shortages such as the one Richland County is experiencing now. More affordable housing drives down the number of hospital visits, especially non-revenue-generating ones. And, of course, more affordable housing means more money in the pockets of those who were previously housing-challenged – money that flows into businesses in the community. Additionally, affordable housing options in high opportunity neighborhoods create economically diverse schools, which are 22 times more likely to be high performing than are high-poverty schools.

During the construction of affordable housing — or any kind of housing, for that matter — the local economy benefits directly from the funds spent on materials, labor, and the like. Creating housing units means creating jobs for those involved in the construction. Further, if a builder is purchasing windows and doors from a local supplier, the supplier may have to spend money on materials and hire additional help to complete the order – an example of an indirect positive financial effect. Also, the construction workers, glass cutters, and landscapers are likely to spend a portion of their wages at the local grocery store, shopping mall, or restaurant. Taken together, the indirect and induced impacts of housing construction on the local economy are often called “ripple” or “multiplier” effects. These effects are maximized in localities where construction-related suppliers and other business establishments are prevalent. Richland County is such a place.

If Richland County established a housing trust funded through a two-mill property tax increase, that would mean a tax increase of roughly \$8 a year for the owner of a house worth \$100,000.00. Respectfully to any such homeowner who may object to such an increase, an examination of the negative economic effects driven by the present housing situation would show that *not* having a vigorously funded housing trust is costing that homeowner well over than \$8 a year right now.

A millage increase dedicated to a housing trust fund would provide the significant, dedicated funding that the Mescher Act requires for such a fund under South Carolina law. Funding for the trust, however, would not need to be limited to millage-based funding or even government funding. A housing trust fund would be permitted to receive funding from other local governments, such as from the City of Columbia, through government grant funding, and from donations from the private sector. The nonprofit corporation trustee would be a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, providing a tax benefit to private donors to the fund.

Richland County can't afford *not* to put a robust housing trust fund in place. As the COVID-19 crisis continues, its economic effects are only beginning to be felt. The ability of ordinary people in Richland County to afford their homes will be challenged more than ever. An already critical need will only be heightened as the effects of this crisis unfold



Text File

Introduced: 7/5/2016

Bill No: 2016-0602, **Version:** 4

Committee: Committee on Land Use and Economic Development

Status: Passed Finally

Ordinance supplementing the Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances, Title Two--Fiscal, Article V--Special Funds, to add a new Chapter [232] 234, "Housing Opportunity Fund", to stabilize communities and protect the public welfare by creating the Pittsburgh Housing Opportunity Fund (the "Fund"), to create a budget obligation for the Fund, to establish the purposes for which monies in the Fund may be used; and to create a Housing Opportunity Fund Governing Board and Advisory Board.

Whereas the Council of the City of Pittsburgh finds as follows:

1. Much of the City's housing stock is older and in need of repair, and many existing and prospective homeowners lack the resources to make necessary repairs. Repairing the existing housing stock helps to stabilize neighborhoods by maintaining property values in the surrounding neighborhood, reducing the incidence of vacancy and blight, and decreasing the need for City-funded demolition.
2. Much of the City's housing stock is not energy efficient, and many property owners lack the resources to make energy efficiency improvements. Improving energy efficiency can help reduce utility costs and provide relief for families with severe housing cost burden. It can also help reduce the City's carbon footprint.
3. Many Pittsburgh neighborhoods have very low rates of homeownership and high rates of absentee-owned properties. Increasing resident ownership of housing gives people more of a stake in the upkeep of their communities and helps to stabilize neighborhoods.
4. The City is experiencing a shortage of decent, safe and sanitary housing that is affordable to extremely low-income families and individuals. The shortage of housing that is affordable to extremely low income families forces them to pay more for housing than they can afford, which reduces the supply of housing that would otherwise be available for families and individuals at other income levels and creates a ripple effect of unaffordability.
5. Over 23,000 Pittsburgh households are paying more than half of their household income on housing costs. This severe cost burden can make these households vulnerable to eviction, foreclosure, utility termination, and other hardships.
6. Many very-low income and extremely low-income families and individuals in Pittsburgh need better access to opportunity resources - such as public transportation, jobs, safe neighborhoods, high-quality schools, child care and grocery stores - that can help to improve their and their children's health, safety and economic self-sufficiency.
7. The City is also experiencing a shortage of decent, safe and sanitary housing that is accessible to people with mobility impairments and other disabilities.

Committee: Committee on Land Use and Economic Development

Status: Passed Finally

8. At any given time, there is an average of more than 2000 homeless households on a waiting list for housing and homeless services in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.
9. Existing affordable housing resources provide relatively short periods of affordability. This can cause the City to invest its limited resources into preserving the existing affordable housing stock instead of expanding the supply. Financing mission-driven developers and prioritizing permanent affordability will help maximize the effectiveness of the City's housing resources.
10. The City and its authorities have experienced steady decreases in funding from federal and state resources for investment in neighborhood development and affordable housing projects.
11. Establishing a Pittsburgh Housing Opportunity Fund will provide needed resources to help stabilize and improve Pittsburgh's neighborhoods, to support the development and preservation of affordable and accessible housing in areas with good access to public transit, jobs, good schools, child care, grocery stores and other amenities that individuals and families need to improve their and their children's health, safety and economic self-sufficiency, and to address other critical housing needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

The Pittsburgh Code, Title Two--Fiscal, Article V--Special Funds, is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter [232] 234, "*Housing Opportunity Fund*".

[232] 234.01 Definitions.

- (a) "*Accessible*" means housing that meets the design standards most recently published by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for Accessible Units or for Units with Accessible Communication Features, as applicable.
- (b) "*Advisory Board*" means the 17-member board described in Section [232] 234.06 of this Chapter.
- (c) "*Affordable*" means housing related expenses do not exceed 30% of a household's gross income. When used in conjunction with a specific income target (e.g., *affordable to households earning at or below 50% of AMI*), the term means housing expenses do not exceed 30% of the gross income of the highest income household within the target category. If no income target is specified, "affordable" shall be construed as referring to an income target of 80% of AMI.
- (d) "*Area Median Income*" or "*AMI*" means the median household income for the Pittsburgh metropolitan area published annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD").
- (e) "*Deed Restricted Affordable Housing*" means real estate that is required to be used as affordable housing for a period of time pursuant to a restrictive covenant or similar enforceable, recorded instrument, with income targets that are no higher than 80% of AMI. The term shall include, but not be limited to, HUD multifamily housing and Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects authorized by applicable law.
- (f) "*Extremely Low Income*" means having a household income that is at or below 30% of AMI.
- (g) "*Family Sustaining Rental Housing*" means rental housing that is affordable to households earning at or

below 50% of AMI. The term shall not include lease purchase or cooperatively owned housing.

(h) “*Governing Board*” means the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (“URA”) Board of Directors.

(i) “*Housing Assistance to Individuals*” means housing assistance that is provided directly to low-income persons, including but not limited to owner-occupied home rehabilitation or repair services; owner-occupied home energy efficiency upgrades; foreclosure prevention and mitigation services; and rapid rehousing services.

(j) “*Low Income*” means having a household income that is at or below 80% of AMI.

(k) “*Mid and Lower Market*” shall have the meaning specified in the performance measures created by the p4 Performance Measures Project in October, 2016.

(l) “*Neighborhood-Based Non-Profit*” means (1) a Non-Profit that has a substantial base of operations within the neighborhood where the housing to be funded by the Housing Opportunity Fund is located, or (2) a Tenant Association that represents the tenants in the housing to be funded by the Housing Opportunity Fund.

(m) “*Non-Profit*” means a non-profit organization that (i) is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and (ii) has providing affordable housing or combating community deterioration among its tax exempt purposes. The term shall not include a non-profit organization that is controlled by a for-profit or public entity.

(n) “*Owner-Occupant*” means a natural person with a legal or equitable ownership interest in property which is the primary residence of the person.

(o) “*Permanently Affordable*” means housing that is subject to a deed restriction, ground lease, shared equity agreement, or similar enforceable, recorded instrument that (1) in the case of rental or cooperatively owned housing, requires all current and subsequent owners to maintain the housing as affordable for a period of at least 99 years or for the life of the building, or (2) in the case of for-sale housing, restricts the resale price to subsequent home buyers to an affordable price for a period designed to maintain the housing as affordable for at least 99 years or for the life of the building.

(p) “*Preservation of Deed Restricted Affordable Housing*” means the rehabilitation, redevelopment or replacement of Deed Restricted Affordable Housing, in order to extend the long term affordability and habitability of the units, such that there is no net loss in affordability and all affordable units are maintained or replaced in locations that are no less desirable than the original location.

(q) “*Tenant Association*” means a membership association consisting of the residents of a residential development that operates democratically, is representative of all residents in the development, and is completely independent of owners, management, and their representatives. An association that otherwise satisfies the foregoing criteria shall not be disqualified solely because it has an ownership interest in the residential development.

(r) “*Very Low Income*” means having a household income that is at or below 50% of AMI.

(s) “*Universal Design*” means housing that meets the design requirements specified in Title Two, Section 265.04.1(2)(b) of the Pittsburgh Code on all floors and in all common areas and public spaces..

[232] 234.02 Establishment of the Pittsburgh Housing Opportunity Fund

Committee: Committee on Land Use and Economic Development

Status: Passed Finally

(a) The Pittsburgh Housing Opportunity Fund (“Fund”) shall be created by the Office of the Controller, **and managed by the Office of Management and Budget** as a separate fund for the purpose of supporting the development and preservation of affordable and accessible housing in the City of Pittsburgh as more particularly specified in Sections [232] 234.03 and [232] 234.04 of this Chapter. The City may appropriate revenue and the Fund may receive monies from sources as deemed appropriate and consistent with the purposes set forth in this Chapter and applicable law.

(b) It is the intent of the City Council that the Fund have a goal of \$10 million or more per year in annual revenue after a corresponding amount of budgeted legal revenue has been identified, a new legal revenue line in the said amount has been established or a combination of both.

(c) The dedication of any revenue must be consistent with the City of Pittsburgh Act 47 plan and Act 11 (Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority) agreements, as applicable, and the City’s annual five year plan. Unless Council approves a dedicated source of annual funding, the actual amount of funds shall be contingent upon annual appropriation of Council.

(d) Monies allocated for the Fund must be used exclusively for purposes consistent with this Chapter and applicable law. Therefore, any assets remaining in the Fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried into the next fiscal year, including all interest and income earned, as well as any repayments or forfeitures of loans and/or grants.

(e) It is the intent of this Chapter that the Trust Fund provide net new resources for affordable housing in the City of Pittsburgh, and that the Fund not be used to substitute or supplant existing resources.

[232] 234.03 Disbursement of Fund Assets

(a) Funds appropriated from the Opportunity Fund shall be consistent with an annual allocation plan (AAP), created by the Advisory and Governing Boards, as described below. The AAP shall outline the types of programs, projects, and activities that are eligible for Opportunity Fund investment. Each year the Advisory Board shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the AAP and shall submit the AAP to Council for review and approval, prior to the passage of the budget. Such programs, projects, and activities shall:

1. Preserve existing affordable housing through investments such as home rehabilitation or repair (both owner-occupied and one- to three-unit rental); down payment/closing cost assistance; homeownership counseling, pre or post purchase; foreclosure prevention and mitigation; tangled title assistance; energy efficiency; and a tenant purchase fund that supports tenants in the process of acquiring a controlling interest in expiring affordable housing.
2. Rehabilitate, redevelop, or replace existing Deed Restricted Affordable Housing in order to extend the long term affordability and habitability of the units.
3. Increase the accessibility of new and existing affordable housing to seniors and people with disabilities.
4. Increase the production of affordable housing for sale or rental so as to ensure that communities

Committee: Committee on Land Use and Economic Development

Status: Passed Finally

experiencing rapid growth and escalating housing costs continue to have Family Sustaining Rental Housing and ensure that Very Low Income families have opportunities to live in housing in areas of high opportunity or consistent with a neighborhood revitalization plan.

5. Prevent or reduce homelessness by increasing the supply of homes with supportive services available to people at imminent risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness. The Fund can also be used for programs including rental assistance, rapid re-housing, permanent supported housing, housing first and/or other homeless housing purposes, especially for youth, families, seniors, veterans, people who are chronically homeless and those with disabilities.

6. Provide for funding projects that promote permanently affordable housing through structures such as tenant purchase, community land trusts, shared-equity or deed restrictions placed upon the land.

7. Stabilize Mid and Lower Market Neighborhoods through activities such as making affordable loan products and grants available for the construction or rehab of owner-occupied homes or financing the purchase and rehabilitation of vacant structures by Neighborhood-Based Non-Profits for affordable homeownership.

8. Advance any additional housing needs and leverage additional funding opportunities for affordable housing and neighborhood stabilization as they arise. To that end, the Governing Board may provide such additional uses and goals consistent with the purposes of this Chapter and the findings listed by City Council based upon the recommendation of the Advisory Board after public notice and an opportunity for comment.

(b) Up to 10% of annual Fund expenditures may be used for administrative expenses, which shall include the URA's reasonable and necessary cost of administration and the preparation of the Annual Audit and Report by the Governing Board and the Advisory Board pursuant to an annual budget reviewed ~~and approved~~ by the Advisory Board.

[232] 234.04 Priorities and Restrictions

(a) The AAP shall:

1. Outline an open and competitive selection process for all projects receiving Fund investment.

2. Establish evaluation criteria for awards that are consistent with the goals and purposes of this Chapter and the findings listed by City Council. At a minimum, the evaluation criteria shall include, as relevant: depth of affordability; length of affordability commitments; geographic distribution of funds; coordination with a neighborhood revitalization plan; affirmatively furthering fair housing; accessibility features; energy efficiency; cost effectiveness; readiness to proceed, and access to frequent transit and walkable/bikeable streets.

3. Set standards by which all applicants with projects of four units or more will be required to demonstrate community engagement to understand needs, align development interests, and maximize community participation and partnerships. Any project presented for community input must be documented as substantially similar to the project included in the application. At a minimum, all applicants with projects of four units or more must provide a memorandum of understanding with a Neighborhood-Based Non-Profit organization. The Governing Board may allow for exceptions where:

a. The rehabilitation of rental units are in exchange for enforceable

- b. commitments to accept rental assistance and provide housing for special needs populations;
- c. The project is necessary to affirmatively further fair housing and there is no Neighborhood-Based Non-Profit that is willing or available to participate;
- d. There are no Neighborhood-Based Non-Profits in the neighborhood where the project is located; or
- e. Any additional provisions consistent with this Chapter

4. Require that all housing production or preservation projects of four units or more (for sale or rental) have a Non-Profit applicant. The Advisory Board and Governing Board will give added weight to projects where a Neighborhood-Based Non-Profit Organization is a partner with the ability to approve major project decisions and acquire the property. .

(b) The AAP shall set the following income targets for the overall investment of fund assets in projects, programs, and activities:

50% of funds must benefit families and individuals at or below 30% AMI.

25% of funds must benefit families and individuals at or below 50% AMI.

25% of funds should benefit families and individuals at or below 80% AMI. by providing or supporting homeownership opportunities. ~~and by providing down payment and closing cost assistance to first-time homebuyers consistent with the income targets used by the Pittsburgh Home Ownership Program (PHOP). Except for down payment and closing cost assistance, all fund assets must benefit families and individuals at or below 80% AMI.~~

1. 80% AMI may only be exceeded for funds used to provide or support homeownership opportunities by providing down payment and closing cost assistance to first-time homebuyers consistent with the income targets and policies used by the Pittsburgh Home Ownership Program (PHOP).

(c) The AAP shall set targets regarding permanent affordability for the overall investment of Fund assets in projects and the Governing Board shall develop an implementation plan for achieving the same, with review and input by the Advisory Board. Within five years, the target shall be for at least 50% of all housing produced or preserved through investments of Fund assets in the aggregate, in projects of four units or more, shall be Permanently Affordable. The AAP may allow for operating and capacity support for community land trusts in order to meet the 50% target.

(d) All other housing that is produced or preserved through an investment of Fund assets, excluding investments in projects, programs, or activities that provide Housing Assistance to Individuals, shall meet or exceed the following affordability/repayment requirements:

1. For rental housing, the minimum affordability periods required under the federal HOME

program at 24 CFR 92.252, or such longer affordability periods as the Governing Board may adopt.

2. For for-sale housing, the Fund assets shall be in the form of a secured loan that must be repaid upon conversion of the unit to a use other than owner-occupied housing or upon sale of the unit to a purchaser who is not Low Income. The Governing Board, at its discretion, may require earlier repayment of any or all of the Fund loan and may subordinate the Fund mortgage to other financing.

3. Lease-purchase housing shall be treated as rental housing until the units are sold to the tenants, at which time the minimum affordability periods required under the federal HOME program at 24 CFR 92.254 shall apply from the date of the most recent investment of Fund assets.

(e) All new construction and all projects of four units or more receiving an investment of Fund assets shall target to meet or exceed the following goals, to the greatest extent feasible:

1. A minimum of 10% of units shall be accessible to individuals with mobility impairments and a minimum of 4% shall be accessible to individuals with sensory impairments.
2. All units shall meet visitability standards.
3. All projects shall maximize the number of units that meet Universal Design standards.

(f) All programs, projects, and activities funded by the Fund shall adhere to the City's Equal Opportunity policies and the City's obligations to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.

(g) When Fund assets are used to preserve Deed Restricted Affordable Housing, the Governing Board shall, to the greatest extent feasible, ensure that: there is no net loss in affordability; all affordable units are maintained or replaced in locations that are no less desirable than the original location; all existing residents are given their choice to live in the redeveloped housing or receive comparable relocation housing; and replacement housing is built first or otherwise phased so that residents will not be required to make more than one move.

(h) It is the intent of this Chapter that rental projects supported by the Fund be owned and managed by responsible landlords. To that end, Fund assets shall not be disbursed for projects, programs, or activities where the property owner or related party has outstanding tax or municipal claims or has failed to comply with City codes or policies or other applicable legal obligations. The Advisory Board may make appropriate exceptions where the funds will be used to bring rental property into compliance, subject to Governing Board approval.

(i) Rehabilitation and repair services funded by the Fund shall be performed in a responsible manner and shall have obtained all required permits have been secured prior to the start of work. At a minimum, contractors performing skilled labor must demonstrate PA Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act registration, federal Environmental Protection Agency lead safe work practices certification if they will be working on a pre-1978 home and the work will disturb a coated surface, and that skilled labor will be performed or inspected by a licensed tradesperson. The Governing Board may make exceptions for property owners and volunteer or training organizations who will be self-performing non-skilled labor.

(j) All rental housing receiving an investment of Fund assets must adhere to the tenant and applicant protections required under the federal HOME program at 24 CFR 92.253, or such stronger tenant and applicant protections as the Governing Board may require, for the duration of the affordability period required under Section [232] 234.01(a)(1) of this Chapter.

[232] 234.05 Governing Board

(a) Upon adoption of a resolution accepting the responsibilities of the governing board as set forth in this chapter, The URA Board shall serve as the Housing Opportunity Fund Governing Board (the “Governing Board”). The Governing Board shall:

1. Ensure that the AAP and all decisions to fund programs, projects, and activities comply with the requirements of this Chapter and all applicable laws and ethical requirements.
2. Issue requests for proposal for Fund assistance, based on the draft requests for proposals and recommendations provided by the Advisory Board and consistent with the AAP and all applicable laws.
3. Make final decisions regarding the disbursement of fund assets, consistent with the requirements of this Chapter and based on recommendations of the Advisory Board. The Governing Board shall not approve any project for funding that has not first been reviewed and ~~recommended for approval~~ **discussed** by the Advisory Board.
4. Enter into agreements to disburse fund assets for projects, programs, and activities consistent with applicable laws.
5. Establish additional priorities consistent with the purposes and intent of this Chapter for inclusion in the AAP based on recommendations of the Advisory Board.
6. Ensure the alignment of Fund disbursements with the City’s other affordable housing resources.
7. Seek contributions from non-City sources to supplement the assets of the Fund.
8. Commission Annual Audits and Annual Reports pursuant to Section [232] 234.09 of this Chapter.

(b) The Governing Board shall meet in regular session at least quarterly and shall conduct its first meeting no later than sixty (60) calendar days after adoption of the resolution of the URA Board as described above. Meetings of the Governing Board, which may be combined with meetings of the URA Board, shall be public and shall be advertised in a manner designed to ensure that the decisions of the Governing Board are open and transparent. The Governing Board shall also provide a mechanism through which interested persons may request and receive timely notification of regular and special meetings, which shall include at a minimum a description of the material terms of financing decisions that will be under consideration. The Governing Board shall allow for public comment on matters up for deliberation at each public meeting, and shall make publicly available a summary of actions taken at each meeting within ten (10) business days. This summary will be unofficial until approved and adopted by the Governing Board.

Committee: Committee on Land Use and Economic Development

Status: Passed Finally

[232] 234.06 Advisory Board

(a) A Housing Opportunity Fund Advisory Board (the “Advisory Board”) is hereby created to:

1. Develop a draft AAP subject to approval by the Governing Board and City Council, as provided herein.
2. Provide recommendations to the Governing Board concerning additional fund priorities.
3. Prepare draft requests for proposals for Fund assistance.
4. Provide recommendations to the Governing Board concerning the disbursement of Fund assets.
5. Make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding funding levels for the Fund, potential additional funding sources, and potential additional funding priorities.

(b) The Advisory Board shall initially be comprised of seventeen (17) persons appointed by the Mayor to four-year staggered terms and approved by the City Council as follows:

1. One member from the Mayor’s Office
2. One member of City Council
3. One member from the Urban Redevelopment Authority
4. One member from the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
5. One member who is a low income tenant earning less than 50% of AMI or who represents a Tenant Association, a majority of whose members are tenants who earn less than 50% of AMI.
6. One member who is a low-income homeowner earning less than 80% of AMI or who represents low income homeowners and resides in a CDBG-eligible census tract
7. One member from the non-profit community
8. One member who is homeless, formerly homeless, has a disability, or is an advocate for persons who are homeless and/or have disabilities
9. One member from the for-profit development community
10. One member from the non-profit development community
11. Five members from Neighborhood Based Nonprofits that serve a low-income population and who reside in a CDBG-eligible Census Tract in each geographic region of the city (north, south, east, west, and central).
12. One member from a lending institution
13. One member who is a fair housing advocate.

(c) The Mayor may appoint, subject to the approval of City Council, one or more additional persons to the Advisory Board as necessary to secure non-City contributions to the Fund.

(d) The Advisory Board shall meet in regular session at least quarterly and shall conduct its first meeting no later than thirty (30) calendar days after its members are appointed. Meetings of the Advisory Board shall be

Committee: Committee on Land Use and Economic Development

Status: Passed Finally

public and shall be advertised in a manner designed to ensure full and meaningful public participation in Advisory Board decisions. The Advisory Board shall also provide a mechanism through which interested persons may request and receive timely notification of regular and special meetings, which shall include at a minimum a summary of the matters that will be under consideration. The Advisory Board shall allow for public comment on matters up for deliberation at each public meeting, and shall make publicly available a summary of actions taken at each meeting within ten (10) business days. This summary will be unofficial until approved and adopted by the Advisory Board.

(e) No later than June 30 of each year, the Advisory Board shall develop a draft AAP to determine the use of funds for the following year and to govern the selection of programs, projects, and activities, consistent with the provisions of this Chapter and applicable law. The Advisory Board shall provide an opportunity for public comment and shall submit its proposed AAP to the Governing Board for review no later than August 31. The Governing Board shall review the proposed AAP to ensure that it complies with the requirements of this Chapter and to all other applicable laws and ethical requirements, and shall promptly work with the Advisory Board to correct any deficiencies. The Governing and Advisory Boards shall submit the AAP to City Council for review no later than October 31. Any decision to reject or modify the AAP must be made by City Council no later than December 31 for adoption by the Governing Board in January of the following year.

[232] 234.07 Administration and Management of Funds

(a) The City shall enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the URA to provide implementation support and administer Fund assets, in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor. The agreement shall be transmitted to the City Clerk for distribution to City Council. The Agreement shall provide substantially as follows:

1. The URA will perform administrative functions related to the operations of the Fund and will provide staff support and technical assistance to the Governing and Advisory Boards.
2. Specific duties will include:
 - a. Administration and Fund management;
 - b. Technical review and underwriting of proposals;
 - c. Construction review and monitoring;
 - d. Approval of draw requests and disbursement of funds;
 - e. Loan management and servicing;
 - f. Reporting;
 - g. Compliance monitoring and enforcement;
 - h. Staff support for the Advisory and Governing Boards to assist with preparation of the draft and final AAP; and
 - i. Additional duties as may be determined by the Advisory Board and Governing Board.

Committee: Committee on Land Use and Economic Development

Status: Passed Finally

3. Opportunity Fund assets shall be accounted for separately from other funds held by the City and URA.

4. Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for state and local governments, as defined by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB), shall be used in the management of all Fund accounts.

[232] 234.08 Annual Audit and Report

(a) Within 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, the Governing Board shall commission an Annual Audit (the "Audit") of Fund income and expenditures for the previous fiscal year. The Audit shall be completed no later than 180 days after the end of the fiscal year. Copies of the Audit shall be provided to City Council, the Mayor, the Governing and Advisory Boards, and shall be made publicly available with the Annual Report. The Audit shall include an account of all administrative expenses sufficient to demonstrate that the expenses are reasonable and necessary to the administration of the Fund.

(b) The Governing Board shall commission an Annual Report on the activities of the Opportunity Fund in the previous fiscal year. The Annual Report shall be completed no later than 180 days after the end of the fiscal year. Copies of the Annual Report shall be provided to City Council, the Mayor, the Governing and Advisory Boards, and shall be made publicly available with the Audit. The Annual Report shall:

1. Provide total numbers of housing units produced, homes preserved, and households prevented from being displaced or becoming homeless as a result of Fund support.

2. List projects, programs, and activities funded through the Fund.

3. Report on funds expended and dollars leveraged by Fund funds.

4. To the extent feasible, report in aggregate form the number of households benefiting from the Fund by income level, geographic distribution, family size, and other criteria as requested by the Advisory Board.

5. Report in aggregate form rents and sale prices of units produced, the number of accessible units built, the number of such units occupied by disabled individuals, and other criteria as requested by the Advisory Board.

6. Report on Opportunity Fund expenditures in each of the income targets specified in Section [232] 234.05(a)(4) of this Chapter.

[232] 234.09 Effective Date.

This Chapter shall become effective upon enactment.

Article 8: Housing

Division 5: San Diego Housing Trust Fund

(“San Diego Housing Trust Fund” added 4-16-1990 by O-17454 N.S.)

§98.0501 Purpose and Intent

- (a) It is the intent of the City Council to create an Affordable Housing Fund as a permanent and annually renewable source of revenue to meet, in part, the housing needs of the City’s *very low*, *low*, and *median income* households. There are households which are income eligible and also possess one or more of the following characteristics; (1) they are burdened by paying more than thirty percent (30%) of their gross income for housing costs; (2) they live in overcrowded conditions; (3) they live in substandard housing units; (4) they are homeless individuals and families; or (5) they consist of individuals and families with special housing needs such as the elderly, the developmentally disabled, the mentally ill, the physically disabled, single parent households and large families.
- (b) The Affordable Housing Fund will serve as a vehicle for addressing very low, low, and median income housing needs through a combination of funds as provided for in these regulations.
- (c) It is the intent of the City Council to address a significant portion of the City’s current and projected very low, low, and median income housing need by leveraging every one dollar of City funds allocated to the Fund with two dollars of non-City subsidy capital funds.
- (d) It is further the intent of the Council to foster a mix of family incomes in projects assisted by the Fund and to disperse affordable housing projects throughout the City, in accordance with its Balanced Communities Policy and its intent to achieve a balance of incomes in all neighborhoods and communities so that no single neighborhood experiences a disproportionate concentration of housing units affordable to very low, low, and median income households.
- (e) It is the purpose and intent of this part to preserve and maintain renter and ownership housing units which are affordable to low, very low, and moderate income households and are located within the City, including federally assisted units and units located in mobile home parks.

- (f) It is the further intent of the City Council to foster and encourage the private sector to join with the public sector and the nonprofit sector to further the goals of this ordinance.

(Amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0502 Establishment of the San Diego Affordable Housing Fund

- (a) There is hereby established a fund to be known and denominated as the San Diego Affordable Housing Fund. The Affordable Housing Fund shall consist of funds derived from the commercial development linkage fees paid to the City pursuant to Chapter 9, Division 6, Article 8 of the San Diego Municipal Code; revenues from the Transient Occupancy Tax as provided in Section 35.0128 of the San Diego Municipal Code; funds derived from in lieu fees paid to the City pursuant to Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 13; revenues received from the use of a shared-equity program pursuant to Section 142.1309(e) of the San Diego Municipal Code; and any other appropriations as determined from time to time by legislative action of the City Council. The Affordable Housing Fund shall be administered by the San Diego Housing Commission pursuant to the provisions of this Division, the appropriation ordinances and Council policies applicable thereto.
- (b) There is also hereby established within the Affordable Housing Fund, a San Diego Housing Trust Fund account. Except for funds received from in lieu fees paid to the City pursuant to Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 13 and revenues received from the use of a shared-equity program pursuant to Section 142.1309(e) of the San Diego Municipal Code, all funds received by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, either from special funds or general fund appropriations, shall be deposited in the Housing Trust Fund account. The administration and use of monies from the San Diego Housing Trust Fund shall be subject to all provisions under this Division related to the Affordable Housing Fund.
- (c) There is also hereby established within the Affordable Housing Fund, an Inclusionary Housing Fund account. Funds received from in lieu fees paid to the City pursuant to Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 13 and revenues received from the use of a shared-equity program pursuant to Section 142.1309(e) of the San Diego Municipal Code shall be deposited in the Inclusionary Housing Fund account. The administration and use of monies from the Inclusionary Housing Fund shall be subject to all provisions under this Division related to the Affordable Housing Fund.

(“Definitions” repealed; “Establishment of the San Diego Housing Trust Fund and Trust Fund Account” renumbered from Sec. 98.0503, retitled and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

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§98.0503 Purpose and Use of Affordable Housing Fund and Monies

- (a) The Affordable Housing Fund shall be used solely for programs and administrative support approved by the City Council in accordance with Section 98.0507 to meet the housing needs of *very low income*, *low income* and *median income* households. In addition, for homeownership purposes only, these funds may be utilized to meet the housing needs of *moderate income* households where *moderate income* has the same meaning as in San Diego Municipal Code Section 113.0103. These programs shall include those providing assistance through production, acquisition, rehabilitation and preservation.
- (b) Principal and interest from loan repayments, proceeds from grant repayments, forfeitures, reimbursements, and all other income from Affordable Housing Fund activities, shall be deposited into the Affordable Housing Fund. All funds in the account shall earn interest at least at the same rate as pooled investments managed by the Treasurer. All interest earnings from the account shall be reinvested and dedicated to the account. All appropriated funds in the Affordable Housing Fund account shall be available for program expenditures as directed by the Commission and pursuant to Section 98.0507. The City’s Annual Appropriation Ordinance shall provide for the transfer of designated funds to the Affordable Housing Fund. Transfers shall be made quarterly or upon direction of the City Manager. Transferred funds shall accrue interest from the time of transfer.

(“Establishment of the San Diego Housing Trust Fund and Trust Fund Account” renumbered to Sec. 98.0502; “Purpose and Use of Housing Trust Fund and Monies” renumbered from Sec. 98.0504, retitled and amended 6–3–2003 by O–19190 N.S.) (Amended 1-23-2009 by O-19825 N.S; effective 2-22-2009.)

§98.0504 Purpose and Use of San Diego Housing Trust Fund Account

- (a) The San Diego Housing Trust Fund may be used in any manner, through loans, grants, or indirect assistance for the production and maintenance of assisted units and related facilities. The San Diego Housing Trust Fund monies shall be distributed to the target income groups according to the following guidelines:
 - (1) No less than ten percent (10%) of the funds in the San Diego Housing Trust Fund account shall be expended to provide transitional housing for households who lack permanent housing;

- (2) Not less than sixty percent (60%) of the funds in the Trust Fund account shall be expended to provide housing to *very low income* households at *affordable housing costs*.
 - (3) No more than twenty percent (20%) of the funds in the San Diego Housing Trust Fund account shall be expended to provide housing to *low income* households at *affordable housing costs*;
 - (4) No more than ten percent (10%) of the funds in the San Diego Housing Trust Fund account shall be expended to assist *median income* and *moderate income* first-time home buyers purchase a home at an *affordable housing cost* with special consideration given to those proposals (1) involving neighborhoods that are predominately *low income* with substantial incidence of absentee ownership, or (2) which further the goals of providing economically balanced communities. *Affordable housing cost*, as defined for moderate income home buyers, shall also be consistent with California Health and Safety Code section 50052.5 for those households at or exceeding 100 percent (100%) of area median income.
- (b) The San Diego Housing Commission shall ensure that a program to increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations to develop and operate housing for *very low, low, median and moderate income* households be included in the Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan to be submitted to the City Council in accordance with Section 98.0507. Through such a program, the Housing Trust Fund may fund training programs for non-profit organizations, and provide funds for administrative support. Furthermore, the San Diego Housing Commission shall ensure that technical assistance related to the preparation of project proposals is made available to nonprofit organizations requesting such assistance.
- (c) Funds shall not be used for the operation of supporting services such as child care or social services unless:
- (1) The funds are used in connection with transitional housing or in neighborhoods where the addition of units will create the need for supportive services.
 - (2) The recipient can demonstrate to the Commission that other funds are not available, and
 - (3) No more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the loan, grant or assistance is designated for such services. Whenever such funds are disbursed from the Trust Fund account, the San Diego Housing Commission shall determine the terms and conditions which shall be attached to the grant or loan of those funds.

*(“Purpose and Use of Housing Trust Fund and Monies” renumbered to Sec. 98.0503; “Purpose and Use of San Diego Housing Trust Fund Account” added 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)
(Amended 1-23-2009 by O-19825 N.S; effective 2-22-2009.)*

§98.0505 Purpose and Use of San Diego Inclusionary Housing Fund Account

- (a) The Inclusionary Housing Trust Fund shall be used solely for programs and administrative support approved by the City Council pursuant to the provisions of Section 98.0507.
- (b) Priority for the expenditure of funds from the Inclusionary Housing Trust Fund shall be given to the construction of new affordable housing stock. The monies may also be allowed to be expended for other programs administered by the San Diego Housing Commission if approved by the City Council in the Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan, pursuant to the provisions of this Division.
- (c) Priority for the expenditure of funds from the Inclusionary Housing Trust Fund shall be given to the Community Planning Area from which the funds were collected. The funds shall be used to promote and support the City’s goal of providing economically balanced communities.

(“Term of Affordability” renumbered to Sec. 98.0506; “Purpose and Use of San Diego Inclusionary Housing Fund Account” added 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0506 Term of Affordability

- (a) Whenever funds from the Affordable Housing Fund are used for the acquisition, construction or substantial rehabilitation of an affordable rental or cooperative unit, the San Diego Housing Commission shall impose enforceable requirements on the owner of the housing unit that the unit remain affordable for the remaining life of the housing unit, assuming good faith efforts by the owner to maintain the housing unit and rehabilitate it as necessary. The remaining life of the housing unit shall be presumed to be a minimum of fifty-five (55) years.
- (b) Whenever funds from the Affordable Housing Fund are used for the acquisition, construction or substantial rehabilitation of ownership housing, the San Diego Housing Commission shall impose enforceable resale restrictions on the owner to keep the housing unit affordable for the longest feasible time, while maintaining an equitable balance between the interests of the owner and the interests of the San Diego Housing Commission.

- (c) For programs funded with funds from the Affordable Housing Fund which are not described in (a) or (b) above, the Commission shall develop appropriate mechanisms to ensure affordability which shall be described in the San Diego Housing Fund Annual Plan.
- (d) The affordability restriction requirements described in this section shall run with the land and the Commission shall develop appropriate procedures and documentation to enforce these requirements and shall record such documentation in the Official Records of the Recorder of San Diego County.

(“Three Year Program” renumbered to Sec. 98.0507; “Term of Affordability” renumbered from Sec. 98.0505 and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0507 Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan

Prior to the commencement of the fiscal year and annually thereafter, the San Diego Housing Commission shall adopt an Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan for the use of the Affordable Housing Fund, including the Housing Trust Fund account and the Inclusionary Housing Fund account, and present it to Council for action. This document shall plan for the following fiscal year or other appropriate time frame to ensure for accurate and effective planning and budgeting of fund revenues. The Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan shall include:

- (a) A description of all programs to be funded with funds from the Affordable Housing Fund account specifying the intended beneficiaries of the program including the capacity building program for nonprofit organizations;
- (b) The amount of funds budgeted for loans or grants to recipients who agree to participate in Commission approved Programs;
- (c) The amount of funds budgeted for administrative expenses, exclusive of legal fees. All disbursements from the Affordable Housing Fund shall be consistent with the Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan.

(“Solicitation of Program Suggestions” renumbered to Sec. 98.0508; “Three Year Program Plan” renumbered from Sec. 98.0506, retitled and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0508 Solicitation of Program Suggestions

Each year, the San Diego Housing Commission shall solicit suggestions on the programs to be funded by the Affordable Housing Fund account in the next fiscal year from any person who has indicated such a desire in writing to the Board of Commissioners of the San Diego Housing Commission.

(“Preparation and Funding of Three-Year Program Plan” renumbered to Sec. 98.0509; “Solicitation of Program Suggestions” renumbered from Sec. 98.0507 and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0509 Preparation and Funding of Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan

Each year, the San Diego Housing Commission shall hold three (3) public hearings to solicit testimony from the general public on programs to be funded by the Affordable Housing Fund account in the next fiscal year. A hearing shall be held in the North, South and Central areas of the City. The San Diego Housing Commission shall consider the suggestions from the neighborhood groups and the testimony from the public hearings, and cause a draft Annual Plan to be prepared for its consideration. The San Diego Housing Commission shall hold a public hearing to obtain public comments on the draft Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan, make modifications as it deems appropriate and submit it to the Council for action. The City Council shall consider the Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan as submitted by the San Diego Housing Commission, modify it if it so elects; approve it no later than July 31 of each year; and appropriate to fund the Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan from the Affordable Housing Fund account or an other funding sources it chooses to consider for this purpose. These procedures and dates may be adjusted as necessary for the preparation of the first Affordable Housing Fund Annual Plan after the enactment of this Division.

(“Project Selection and Disbursement of Funds” renumbered to Sec. 98.0510; “Preparation and Funding of Three-Year Program Plan” renumbered from Sec. 98.0508, retitled and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0510 Project Selection and Disbursement of Funds

- (a) All projects considered for funding will be reviewed prior to Commission action by the local Community Planning Group or, in an area where there is no Planning Group, another community advisory group.
- (b) The San Diego Housing Commission may notify potential recipients that specified funds from the Affordable Housing Fund are available to be distributed as loans or grants through issuing requests for proposals and notices of fund availability.

(“Support of Nonprofit Organizations” repealed; “Project Selection and Disbursement of Funds” renumbered from Sec. 98.0509 and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

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§98.0511 Regulation of Recipients

Every recipient shall enter into a written agreement with the San Diego Housing Commission which sets forth the terms and conditions of the grant or loan. The agreement shall contain at least the following provisions:

- (a) The amount of funds to be disbursed from the Affordable Housing Fund.
- (b) The manner in which the funds from the Affordable Housing Fund are to be used.
- (c) The terms and conditions of the grant or loan.
- (d) The projected and maximum amount that is allowed to be charged in order for the assisted units to maintain an affordable housing cost.
- (e) A requirement that periodic reports be made to the Commission to assist its monitoring of compliance with the agreement.
- (f) A description of actions that the Commission may take to enforce the agreement.
- (g) Restrictions on the return on equity and developers fee recipients may receive, where applicable.

(“Funding of Supporting Services” repealed; “Regulation of Recipients” renumbered from Sec. 98.0512 and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0512 Publication of Program Documents

The Commission shall publish such administrative rules and guidelines as are necessary and desirable to implement the programs approved by the City Council in the Annual Plan.

(“Regulation of Recipients” renumbered to Sec. 98.0511; “Publication of Program Documents” renumbered from Sec. 98.0522 and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0513 Annual Report

- (a) The Commission shall within ninety (90) days following the close of each fiscal year prepare and submit an annual report to the City Council on the activities undertaken with funds from the Affordable Housing Fund account. The report shall specify the number and types of units assisted, the geographic distribution of units and a summary of statistical data relative to the incomes of assisted households, the monthly rent or carrying charges charged the amount of state, federal and private funds leveraged, and the sales prices of ownership units assisted. The report shall specifically contain a discussion of how well the goals of the previous year’s Annual Plan were met. The report shall also contain the information necessary to support the findings specified in Section 66001 of Chapter 5, Division 1 of Title 7 of the California Government Code.

(“Annual Report” renumbered from Sec. 98.0523 and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0514 Reserve Fund

The Commission may establish and maintain a reserve fund account subject to approval of the City Council, adequate to preserve the ability of the Affordable Housing Fund to take maximum advantage of unforeseen opportunities in assisting housing and to ensure prudently against unforeseen expenses. The amount to be maintained in this reserve fund shall be determined by the San Diego Housing Commission. The San Diego Housing Commission shall establish procedures for maintaining such a fund.

(“Reserve Fund” renumbered from Sec. 98.0524 and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0515 Financial Management

- (a) The City Auditor shall maintain a separate Affordable Housing Fund and any required related subsidiary funds and transfer the balance on deposit from such funds to the San Diego Housing Commission on a quarterly basis upon the direction from the Financial Management Director.
- (b) The San Diego Housing Commission shall maintain and report within their accounts a separate Affordable Housing Fund and the subsidy funds of the Housing Trust Fund, the Inclusionary Housing Fund, and any other required related subsidiary funds for all related financing transferred from the City and any related income. Such funds shall be accounted for and reported separately on the San Diego Housing Commission’s annual audited financial report, and such funds shall be audited for compliance with the Affordable Housing Fund Ordinance, Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, and related policies and regulations.

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The Commission shall also prepare any other reports legally mandated for financing sources of the Affordable Housing Fund.

(“Financial Management” renumbered from Sec. 98.0525 and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0516 Equal Opportunity Program

The San Diego Housing Commission shall apply its equal opportunity program to assure that contractors doing business with and/or receiving funds from the Affordable Housing Fund will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, age, or national origin and that equal employment opportunity is provided to all applicants and employees without regard to race, religion, sex, handicap, age, or national origin. The goals of the equal opportunity program are to ensure that all contracts achieve parity in the representation of women, minorities, and the handicapped in each contractor’s work force with the availability of women minorities, and the handicapped in the San Diego County labor market. The program shall apply to all vendors, grantees, lessees, consultants, banks, and independent corporations under contract with the San Diego Housing Commission.

(“Equal Opportunity Program” renumbered from Sec. 98.0526 and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0517 Compliance with Antidiscrimination Laws

Each contractor shall submit certification of compliance with Executive Order 11246, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the California Fair Employment Practice Act, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations hereinafter enacted. Such certification shall be on forms to be provided by the Commission and shall be submitted at the time the contractor submits a bid or proposal.

(“Compliance with Antidiscrimination Laws” renumbered from Sec. 98.0527 on 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

§98.0518 Commission Powers To Enforce

The San Diego Housing Commission may institute any action or proceeding it deems appropriate, judicial or otherwise, against recipients or other persons to carry out the provisions of this Division, to enforce the terms of any agreement related to the use of funds from the Affordable Housing Fund, or to protect the interest of the City, the San Diego Housing Commission, or intended beneficiaries of programs operated pursuant to this Division. The San Diego Housing Commission may foreclose on property assisted with funds from the Affordable Housing Fund, seek to assume managerial or financial control over property financed with funds from the Affordable Housing Fund, directly or through a receiver, seek monetary damages or seek equitable or declaratory relief.

(“Commission Powers to Enforce” renumbered from Sec. 98.0528 and amended 6-3-2003 by O-19190 N.S.)

1
2
3
4 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM RELATING TO LOW-INCOME**
5 **HOUSING; REQUESTING THAT A SPECIAL ELECTION BE HELD CONCURRENT**
6 **WITH THE NOVEMBER 6, 2012 GENERAL ELECTION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE**
7 **QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF A PROPOSITION TO LIFT THE LIMIT ON**
8 **REGULAR PROPERTY TAXES UNDER CHAPTER 84.55 RCW FOR LOW-INCOME**
9 **HOUSING; DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF AN EMERGENCY UNDER CHAPTER**
10 **84.52.105 AND REQUESTING VOTER APPROVAL OF AN ADDITIONAL PROPERTY**
11 **TAX FOR VERY LOW-INCOME HOUSING; PROVIDING FOR THE EXPIRATION OF**
12 **THE ADDITIONAL LEVIES AT THE END OF SEVEN YEARS; SETTING FORTH THE**
13 **BALLOT PROPOSITION; DESIGNATING A CITIZEN LEVY ADVISORY COMMITTEE;**
14 **AND PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS WITH FUNDS DERIVED**
15 **FROM THE TAXES AUTHORIZED.**

16
17 **WHEREAS**, Equity and Social Justice is a legacy that the City Council has adopted
18 for the City of Bellingham;

19
20 **WHEREAS**, Supporting safe, affordable housing, supporting services for lower-
21 income residents, and providing access to problem-solving resources are the strategic
22 commitments the City Council has made to ensure Equity and Social Justice;

23
24 **WHEREAS**, a healthy community is one in which all members have access to basic
25 needs such as safe, secure and affordable homes and, despite the recent decline in home
26 purchase prices, homes remain unaffordable for a significant percentage of Bellingham
27 residents;

28
29 **WHEREAS**, households face a severe burden when housing costs (including
30 utilities) exceed 50 percent of household income;

31
32 **WHEREAS**, U.S. Census data has estimated that there are 7,400 low-income
33 households in Bellingham that face a severe housing cost burden by paying more than 50
34 percent of their income on housing costs;

35
36 **WHEREAS**, over 1,000 low-income elderly households in Bellingham pay more than
37 50 percent of their income on housing costs and face challenges in repairing their homes
38 without financial assistance;

39
40 **WHEREAS**, at any point in time, 500 people are homeless in Whatcom County,
41 according to the annual Point-in-Time Count, and 20 percent of all people experiencing
42 homelessness in Bellingham are children under 10 years of age, with adverse childhood
43 experiences that have profound and long-lasting negative consequences;

44
45 **WHEREAS**, local housing affordability efforts save public money by reducing
46 expenses for social services, emergency room medical care, triage, law enforcement and

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1 other costs associated with temporary and chronic homelessness, with two local programs
2 recently documenting that housing services resulted in increased access to mental health
3 services and a 90 percent reduction in criminal justice costs;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, recent investments of new, but very limited, grant funds resulted in
6 significant reductions in local homelessness, with 37 percent fewer homeless persons with
7 disabilities, 65 percent fewer homeless veterans, and 41 percent fewer homeless persons
8 overall;

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the Bellingham Housing Authority has 1,608 families on the waiting list
11 for public housing, 72 percent of which earn less than 30% of the Area Median Income and
12 44 percent are families with disabilities;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the Bellingham Housing Authority has 400 households on the waiting
15 list for rental assistance vouchers, with an average waiting time to receive assistance of
16 more than four years;

17
18 **WHEREAS**, nearly one-third of Bellingham's housing stock is over 50 years old,
19 requiring repair, maintenance and weatherization that is often not affordable to low-income
20 households;

21
22 **WHEREAS**, local wages are not keeping pace with Bellingham's housing costs, with
23 average apartment rent increasing 17 percent while average wages increased only 5
24 percent since 2004,

25
26 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Census, the median value of homes increased 96
27 percent from 2000 to 2010, while median family income increased just 23 percent;

28
29 **WHEREAS**, more affordable housing options near employment centers are good for
30 the environment, preventing long commutes with associated pollution, commuting
31 expenses, traffic congestion and road widening costs;

32
33 **WHEREAS**, the Countywide Housing Affordability Taskforce (CHAT) concluded its
34 18 month study and deliberation about housing affordability with a set of conclusions that
35 included among its top six recommendations the creation of additional local revenue
36 sources that assist in the delivery of homes affordable to low-income households;

37
38 **WHEREAS**, the proposed Bellingham Home Fund will result in \$21,000,000 in local
39 funding that will be used as matching money to leverage other private and public funding
40 for housing affordability, serving an estimated 8,500 families over the useful life of the
41 properties that will be assisted with the Bellingham Home Fund;

42
43 **WHEREAS**, as a condition of receiving federal funding for low-income housing, the
44 City of Bellingham administers an affordable housing program with citizen oversight,
45 including preparation of five-year strategic plans, performance measures and outcomes,
46 and annual action plans;

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1
2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Bellingham can efficiently administer the proposed
3 Bellingham Home Fund in conjunction with its existing programs that manage federal
4 funding for housing affordability;
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Chapter 84.55 RCW generally limits the dollar amount of regular
7 property taxes that a city may levy in any year, but RCW 84.55.050 allows a city to levy
8 taxes exceeding such limit by majority approval of the voters and allows a city to include in
9 the ballot proposition a limit on the purpose for which the additional taxes levied will be
10 used and to provide for the expiration of the additional taxing authority;
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the proposed additional levy is within the limitations imposed by RCW
13 84.52.043;
14

15 **WHEREAS**, RCW 84.52.105 authorizes a city to impose additional regular property
16 tax levies to finance affordable housing for very low-income households when specifically
17 authorized to do so by a majority of the voters of the taxing district voting on a ballot
18 proposition authorizing the levy; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, RCW 35.21.685 authorizes a city to assist in the development or
21 preservation of publicly or privately owned housing for persons of low income by providing
22 loans or grants of general municipal funds to the owners or developers of the housing,
23 including loans or grants to finance the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of low-
24 income housing, and to provide rental assistance and other supportive services, to low-
25 income persons;
26

27 **NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:**
28

29 **Section 1. Findings.** The City Council makes the following findings and declares as
30 follows:
31

- 32 A. The City's Consolidated Plan and Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan identify
33 insufficient safe, sanitary, and decent housing affordable to low- and very low-income
34 households to meet the present and anticipated needs of such households, including
35 homes affordable for local working people, U.S. military veterans, families with children,
36 people with limited or fixed incomes including senior citizens and people having a
37 disability.
- 38 B. Affordable rental housing for low-income households, including the homeless, other
39 persons with special needs, families and seniors, often requires a commitment of City
40 funds for development or preservation, or other forms of assistance.
- 41 C. Promoting and preserving home ownership for low-income households contributes to
42 the stability of families and neighborhoods; helps preserve the physical condition of
43 residential properties; and addresses the shortage of safe, sanitary, affordable housing
44 both by maintaining and enhancing the supply of owner-occupied housing and by
45 limiting the demand for scarce low-income rental housing that otherwise would exist
46 from households unable to afford to purchase homes or to maintain existing homes.

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- 1 D. The additional taxes to be levied under this ordinance will enable the City to provide for
2 the housing needs of low- and very low-income households and thereby work to fulfill
3 the purposes of federal, state and City laws and policies, including, without limitation,
4 the federal HOME Investment Partnerships Act, federal Community Development Block
5 Grant, the State Growth Management Act and the City's Comprehensive Plan.
6 E. An emergency exists with respect to the availability of housing that is affordable to very
7 low-income households in the City of Bellingham.

8
9 **Section 2. Definitions.** The following terms used in this ordinance shall have the
10 definitions stated below, unless the context otherwise clearly requires:

- 11
12 A. "Affordable housing" means residential housing for rental or private individual
13 ownership which, as long as the same is occupied by low-income households, requires
14 payment of monthly housing costs, including utilities, other than telephone, of no more
15 than 30 percent of the household's income.
16 B. "Low-income housing" means housing that will serve "low-income households."
17 C. "Household" means a single person, family or unrelated persons living together.
18 D. "Low-income household" means a household with income less than or equal to eighty
19 percent (80%) of median income.
20 E. "Median income" means annual median family income for the statistical area or division
21 thereof including Bellingham for which median family income is published from time to
22 time by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or successor
23 agency, with adjustments according to household size.
24 F. "Very low-income household" means a household with income less than or equal to 50
25 percent of median income.

26
27 To the extent permitted by applicable State law, income determinations may take into
28 account such exclusions, adjustments and rules of computation as may be prescribed or
29 used under federal housing laws, regulations or policies for purposes of establishing
30 income limits, or as may be established in City housing and community development plan
31 documents consistent with federal laws, regulations or policies.

32
33 **Section 3. Proposition to Authorize Levy of Additional Regular Property Taxes;**
34 **Affordable Housing Plan.**

35
36 The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW
37 84.55.050(1), to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in Chapter
38 84.55 RCW for property taxes levied in 2012 through 2018 for collection in 2013 through
39 2019, respectively. The proposition would also authorize an additional property tax levy for
40 very low-income housing under RCW 84.52.105. The proposition would raise
41 approximately \$3,000,000 per year totaling an estimated \$21,000,000 in aggregate over a
42 period of up to seven years.

- 43
44 A. The proposition would permit the City to increase its regular property tax levy by up
45 to \$0.12 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, resulting in a regular property tax levy of

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1 \$2.62 per \$1,000 for collection in 2013. All the levy proceeds shall be used for the
2 purposes specified in Section 5 of this ordinance.

3 B. The proposition would also authorize the City to impose an additional regular
4 property tax levy of up to \$0.24 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for very low-
5 income housing pursuant to RCW 84.52.105. The limitations in RCW 84.52.043
6 shall not apply to the tax levy authorized by this part. All the levy proceeds shall be
7 used for the purposes specified in Section 5 of this ordinance and may not be imposed
8 by the City Council until the City adopts an affordable housing financing plan as set
9 forth in Section 6 of this ordinance.

10 C. The taxes authorized by this proposition will be in addition to the maximum amount of
11 regular property taxes the City would have been limited to by RCW 84.55.010 in the
12 absence of voter approval under this ordinance, plus other authorized lid lifts.
13 Thereafter, such levy amount would be used to compute limitations for subsequent
14 years as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(5), the maximum
15 regular property taxes that may be levied in 2019 for collection in 2020 and in later
16 years shall be computed as if the limit on regular property taxes had not been
17 increased under this ordinance.

18
19 **Section 4. Levy Revenues.**

20
21 A. Unless otherwise directed by ordinance, all revenues collected from the additional
22 taxes authorized pursuant to this ordinance shall be deposited initially in the Low-
23 Income Housing Fund to be used as set forth in Section 5 and as described in the Low
24 Income Housing Administrative and Financing Plans, as may be adopted by the City
25 Council under Sections 5 and 6 of this ordinance. The Finance Director is authorized to
26 create other subfunds or accounts within the Low-Income Housing Fund as may be
27 needed or appropriate to implement the purposes of this ordinance.

28 B. Pending expenditure for the purposes authorized in this ordinance, amounts deposited
29 in the Low-Income Housing Fund pursuant to this ordinance may be invested in any
30 investments permitted by applicable law. All investment earnings on the balances shall
31 be deposited into the Low-Income Housing Fund. Amounts received by the City from
32 payments with respect to loans, recovery of grants, insurance proceeds or proceeds of
33 sale or disposition of property ("program income") shall be deposited into the Low-
34 Income Housing Fund unless otherwise specified by ordinance. Any investment
35 earnings and program income derived from revenues collected from the additional
36 taxes authorized pursuant to this ordinance shall be used for the purposes set forth in
37 this ordinance and as authorized by the City Council.

38
39 **Section 5. Administration; Use of Proceeds.**

40
41 A. The levy funds shall be used to pay for affordable housing for low and very low-income
42 households, pay for affordable housing programs, and otherwise to provide for the
43 housing needs of low and very low-income households; provided that all funds raised
44 from the levy authorized by RCW 84.52.105 shall be dedicated to affordable housing
45 for very low-income households.

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- 1 B. The Planning and Community Development Department, or such other department as
2 may be designated by ordinance, shall administer programs funded with the additional
3 taxes authorized pursuant to this ordinance. Any programs adopted by the City Council
4 for use of the funds derived under this ordinance shall be referred to as "Housing Levy
5 Programs." Housing Levy Programs shall be implemented consistent with the Low
6 Income Housing Administrative and Financing Plan, as may be adopted by the City
7 Council and as may thereafter be amended from time to time.
- 8 C. Anticipated Housing Levy Programs are shown in Exhibit 1, attached hereto. The City
9 Council, upon recommendation of the Citizen Advisory Committee described in Section
10 7 of this ordinance, or upon recommendation of the Mayor or on its own motion, may
11 review the allocations to particular Housing Levy Programs and make changes to the
12 programs, including additions and deletions of programs and/or in the timing of or
13 amount of funds allocated to any program, consistent with the purposes of this
14 ordinance and applicable law. Administration funding shown on Exhibit 1 is intended to
15 be used for administration of the use of levy proceeds for all programs, including but
16 not limited to developing the Low Income Housing Administrative and Financing Plan,
17 preparing and reviewing loan and grant applications, monitoring and auditing
18 performance and compliance with loan, grant and program requirements, and paying
19 for financial accounting, legal, and other administrative services necessary to
20 implement the Housing Levy Programs.

21
22 **Section 6. Low Income Housing Administrative and Financing Plan.**

- 23
24 A. The Director of Planning and Community Development, or other such person as may
25 be designated by the Director or the Mayor, shall prepare a Low Income Housing
26 Administrative and Financing Plan ("Plan") covering all of the Housing Levy Programs.
27 The Plan shall cover the period commencing in 2013 and continue through 2019; shall
28 specify the plan for use of funds raised by the levy authorized by RCW 84.52.105; shall
29 be consistent with either the locally adopted or state-adopted comprehensive housing
30 affordability strategy, required under the Cranston-Gonzalez national affordable
31 housing act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12701, et seq.), as amended; and shall be approved by
32 City Council prior to the additional property tax levy being imposed pursuant to RCW
33 84.52.105.
- 34 B. The expenditure of all funds raised pursuant to this ordinance shall be as set forth in
35 the Plan adopted by City Council. The City Council reserves the right to amend the
36 Plan as it may in the future be determined as necessary or appropriate. The Plan
37 should be done in coordination with the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans
38 required by HUD for expenditure of HOME and CDBG funds for the benefit of low
39 income housing and community development needs in the City.
- 40 C. The City Council shall appropriate from the Low-Income Housing Fund, as part of the
41 City budget or supplementally, such monies derived from the levies authorized in this
42 ordinance as it deems necessary to carry out the Housing Levy Programs.
- 43 D. The Mayor, or other such person as may be designated by the Mayor, is authorized, for
44 and on behalf of the City, to select projects for funding and to approve, make and modify
45 loans, grants or other expenditures to carry out the Housing Levy Programs, provided
46 that such authority is subject to the appropriation of sufficient funds and consistent with

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1 the Plan approved by City Council pursuant to Sections 5 and 6. The Mayor and his or
2 her designees are further authorized, for and on behalf of the City, to execute and
3 deliver such documents and instruments as he or she may determine to be necessary or
4 appropriate to implement the financing of specific projects or to otherwise carry out the
5 Housing Levy Programs.
6

7 **Section 7. Citizen Advisory Committee.**

8 The Community Development Advisory Board ("CDAB"), established pursuant to BMC
9 2.46.010, shall advise the City Council, Mayor and the Director of Planning and Community
10 Development regarding the Housing Levy Programs authorized by this ordinance. CDAB
11 shall advise the Mayor and City Council on the Low Income Housing Administrative and
12 Financial Plan prepared pursuant to Section 6 of this ordinance. CDAB shall also assist in
13 monitoring the progress, performance and accomplishment of Housing Levy Programs, and
14 report such findings to the Mayor and City Council, including any problems and
15 recommendations on actions to be taken so that the Housing Levy Programs are
16 conducted in a timely and efficient manner for the benefit of low-income households.
17

18 **Section 8. Election - Ballot Title.**

19 The City Council hereby requests that the Whatcom County Auditor, as *ex officio*
20 supervisor of elections, submit to the qualified electorate of the City for a vote, at the
21 November 6, 2012 general election, a proposition substantially in the form set forth in this
22 ordinance. The City Clerk is directed to certify to the Whatcom County Auditor the ballot
23 proposition to the electorate of the City in the form substantially as follows:
24

25 PROPOSITION NO. 1
26 Low-Income Housing Levy
27

28 The City of Bellingham Council adopted Ordinance No. 2012-06-033
29 concerning property taxes for low-income housing assistance.
30

31 This proposition would fund housing and housing services for
32 people with low or very low incomes, including those with
33 disabilities, veterans, seniors, and families with children by (a)
34 authorizing an increase in the City's regular property tax levy by
35 up to \$0.12/\$1,000 to \$2.62/\$1,000 of assessed value as allowed
36 by RCW 84.55; and (b) authorizing a regular property tax levy of
37 up to \$0.24/\$1,000 of assessed value under RCW 84.52.105,
38 each for seven years, generating approximately \$3,000,000
39 annually. Should this proposition be approved?
40

41 Yes?.....

42 No?

43
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Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270

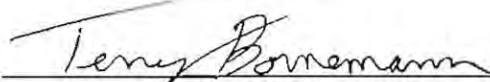
1 **Section 9. Corrections.**

2 The Bellingham City Attorney's Office or the Auditor or her designee is authorized to make
3 necessary clerical corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of
4 scrivener's or clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers
5 and any references thereto.
6


7 **Section 10. Severability.**

8 If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution should be held to be invalid or
9 unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality
10 shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or
11 phrase of this resolution.
12

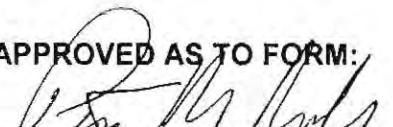
13 **PASSED** by the Council this 18th day of June, 2012.

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15 
16 _____
17 Council President
18
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22

23
24 **APPROVED** by me this 22nd day of June, 2012.

25
26
27 
28 _____
29 Mayor
30

31
32 **ATTEST:** 
33 _____
34 Finance Director
35

36
37 **APPROVED AS TO FORM:**
38 
39 _____
40 Office of the City Attorney
41

42
43 Published:
44
45 June 22, 2012
46

1
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3

EXHIBIT 1
2013 HOUSING LEVY PROGRAMS

Program	Total Funding (7 Years)	Estimated Housing Produced/Households Assisted	Program Description/Affordability Levels
Production and Preservation of Homes	\$15,980,000	429 homes (serving 8,500 families over the useful life of these properties).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homes for people working at minimum wage, veterans, seniors on fixed incomes, and people exiting homelessness (households at or below 30% of median income) Homes for local workers, working families up to 60% of median income Affordable and specialized homes for veterans, people with disabilities, and seniors. Rehabilitation and weatherization to increase affordability and preserve existing affordable homes
Rental Assistance and Support Services	\$1,880,000	800 homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive services matched to specialized homes for disabled veterans and chronically homeless individuals to help them retain their homes and reduce costly care in hospital emergency department and other inappropriate systems of care Temporary and long-term assistance to families and individuals to help preserve their housing, prevent eviction and homelessness (targeted households at or below 50% of median income)
Low-income homebuyer assistance	\$940,000	50 homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance to low-income homebuyers, including programs that promote long-term affordability of ownership housing (targeted to households at or below 80% of median income)
Acquisition and Opportunity Loans	\$940,000	50 homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term loans for strategic purchases of buildings or land for rental or homeownership housing development that will serve low-income households
Administration	\$1,260,000	n/a	

4

HOME FUND ORDINANCE

(9)

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270

ORDINANCE

19-19

ORDINANCE NO. 19- 19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES PART A, CHAPTER 40, CREATING A NEW ARTICLE IV TITLED THE HOPE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM AND DESCRIBING THE PURPOSE THEREOF; ESTABLISHING THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND; PROVIDING FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF A LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND BIENNIAL PLAN; PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF PROGRAM FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County recognizes that Hillsborough County has experienced rapid population growth over the past five years and that these growth trends are predicted to continue; and

WHEREAS, such growth places pressure on the housing market and causes an increase in rents and home prices; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40% of households in Hillsborough County are considered cost-burdened because they pay more than 30% of household income for rent or mortgage costs; and

WHEREAS, cost-burdened households have less income to spend on basic needs such as food, transportation, education and medical care; and

WHEREAS, an adequate supply of safe, decent and affordable housing at all income levels is critical to healthy families, helps create and maintain jobs, and impacts the quality of life and economic prosperity of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County finds that the Federal and State funds received by the County for preserving and producing affordable housing are insufficient to meet community needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to establish a local program for preserving and developing affordable housing that is sufficiently flexible to meet varied and evolving housing needs and priorities while providing housing that is safe, sound, and financially viable; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners that revenue sources for this local affordable housing program be identified during the County's annual budgeting process; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved a motion directing the drafting of an ordinance establishing an affordable housing trust fund; and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held by the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, at which public hearing all interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA, THIS 5TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2019, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The recitations above are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. The Hillsborough County Code of Laws and Ordinances, Part A, Chapter 40, is hereby amended to create a new article to be numbered Article IV and entitled the “HOPE Affordable Housing Act”, which shall hereafter read as follows:

Article IV. HOPE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT

Sec. - 40-93. Definitions

For the purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

Hillsborough County Affordable Housing Trust Fund or Fund means the fund established pursuant to this article.

Hillsborough County Local Affordable Housing Fund Program or Program means the program established pursuant to this article for the purpose of promoting the preservation and production of affordable housing for very low, low and moderate income households in Hillsborough County.

Low income household means one or more natural persons or a family that has a total annual gross household income that does not exceed 80 percent of the median annual income adjusted for family size for households in Hillsborough County within the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metropolitan statistical area, as published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Moderate income household means one or more natural persons or a family that has a total annual gross household income that does not exceed 100 percent of the median annual income adjusted for family size for households in Hillsborough County within the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metropolitan statistical area, as published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Very low income household means one or more natural persons or a family that has a total annual gross household income that does not exceed 50 percent of the median annual income adjusted for family size for households in Hillsborough County within the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metropolitan statistical area, as published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Sec. - 40-94. Establishment of Hillsborough County Local Affordable Housing Fund Program; Purpose

There is hereby established the Hillsborough County Local Affordable Housing Fund Program (the "Program"). The Program is established for the purpose of promoting the preservation and production of affordable housing for very low, low and moderate income households in Hillsborough County.

Sec. 40-95. – Establishment of Hillsborough County Affordable Housing Trust Fund

The Clerk, as accountant for the Board of County Commissioners, is hereby directed to establish and maintain a fund known as the Hillsborough County Affordable Housing Trust Fund within the accounts of the Board of County Commissioners.

Sec. 40-96. - Allocation and Use of Funds for Program; Annual Budget Preparation

(a) All monies allocated by the Board of County Commissioners for the Program shall be appropriated in the Fund. Monies deposited in the Fund, including any interest earnings on such monies and repayments of loans made from such monies, shall be used solely for the purposes of the Program as provided in this article, except that the Board of County Commissioners may determine in a public hearing, by majority vote plus one, that monies allocated to the Program but not committed or expended may be reallocated to meet another urgent community need.

(b) In preparing the proposed annual budget for each fiscal year for submission to the Board of County Commissioners, the County's Budget Officer shall insure that each such budget includes an allocation of at least \$10,000,000 in new Countywide General Fund monies for the Program and the inclusion in the Fund as an account balance of any monies previously allocated to the Program and interest earned on such monies which were not expended for the Program within the prior fiscal year.

Sec. 40-97. – Hillsborough County Local Affordable Housing Fund Biennial Plan

(a) Within three months of the adoption of this Ordinance and then biennially thereafter, the Affordable Housing Services Department shall submit a recommended Local Affordable Housing Fund Biennial Plan, which, for purposes of this article, shall be referred to as the "Plan", to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration. The recommended Plan shall be prepared by the Affordable Housing Services Department with the approval of the County's Affordable Housing Advisory Board.

(b) The Board of County Commissioners shall adopt a Local Affordable Housing Fund Biennial Plan following a public hearing. The first such Plan shall be adopted within six months of the adoption of this Ordinance, and a new Plan shall be adopted every two years thereafter

addressing the approved strategies for and uses of allocated funds. The Board of County Commissioners may consider more frequent updates to the Plan as necessary.

(c) The Plan shall include:

(1) The priorities for the expenditure of funds allocated to the Program.

(2) The strategies which will be eligible for assistance under the Program.

(3) A description of the affordability restrictions and requirements and loan and grant terms applicable for each adopted strategy.

(4) A description of how funds from the Program will be distributed among very low income, low income and moderate income households.

(6) A description of the procedure for selecting projects receiving funding under the Program.

(7) A summary of the use of the Program funds in the immediately preceding two-year period.

Sec. 40-98. - Use of Program Funds

(a) Funds allocated to the Program shall be used to provide loans and grants for projects to create and sustain affordable housing for very low, low or moderate income households in Hillsborough County.

(b) The Program shall include, without limitation, providing assistance through production, acquisition, rehabilitation and preservation of land and/or housing units for rental and homeownership activities. Program funds shall not be used for supportive housing services such as daycare or job training.

(c) Not more than 5 percent of the funds allocated to the Program may be used to cover administrative expenses.

(d) Not less than 30 percent of the funds allocated to the Program shall be spent on affordable housing for very low income households.

(e) Not less than 30 percent of the funds allocated to the Program shall be spent on affordable housing for low income households.

Sec. - 40-99. Program Administration

(a) The Program shall be administered by the Affordable Housing Services Department on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and consistent with the adopted Plan. It shall be the responsibility of the Affordable Housing Services Department to develop and implement policies and procedures necessary for operation of the Program.

(b) The Affordable Housing Services Department shall disburse Program funds consistent with the Plan and its adopted policies and procedures, and shall monitor the use of Program funds for compliance with the purposes of the Program and the conditions pursuant to which the funds were granted or loaned. The Affordable Housing Services Department shall also maintain the financial and other records of the Program.

(c) All projects to be awarded Program funding shall be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

SECTION 3. INCLUSION IN THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CODE

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be included and incorporated in the Hillsborough County Code, as an addition or amendment thereto, and shall be appropriately renumbered to conform to the uniform numbering system of the Hillsborough County Code.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not be construed to render the remaining provisions of this Ordinance invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5. FILING OF ORDINANCE AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon receipt of acknowledgement that a copy of this Ordinance has been filed with the Secretary of State.

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

I, PAT FRANK, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex-Officio of the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, Florida, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of September 5, 2019, as the same appears of record in Minute Book 520 of the Public Records of Hillsborough County, Florida.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 10th day of September, 2019.

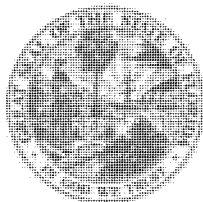
PAT FRANK, CLERK

By: Minda O.K. Ditt
Deputy Clerk



APPROVED BY COUNTY ATTORNEY

By: [Signature]
Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

LAUREL M. LEE
Secretary of State

September 10, 2019

Honorable Pat Frank
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Hillsborough County
419 Pierce Street, Room 140
Tampa, Florida 33601

Attention: Midge Dixon

Dear Mrs. Frank:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, this will acknowledge receipt of your electronic copy of Hillsborough County Ordinance No. 19-19, which was filed in this office on September 10, 2019.

Sincerely,

Ernest L. Reddick
Program Administrator

ELR/lb

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY COUNCIL FOR RICHLAND COUNTY
ORDINANCE NO. ###-####**

ORDINANCE TO CREATE A HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR RICHLAND COUNTY

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RICHLAND COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES **CHAPTER 40, CREATING A NEW ARTICLE ## TITLED RICHLAND COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT;** PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHING THE RICHLAND COUNTY LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM AND DESCRIBING THE PURPOSE THEREOF; ESTABLISHING THE RICHLAND COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND; PROVIDING FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF A LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND BIENNIAL PLAN; PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF PROGRAM FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE RICHLAND COUNTY CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY;
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Council of Richland County recognizes the lack of affordable housing is a major concern of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Richland County recognizes that approximately 45% of households in Richland County are considered cost-burdened because they pay more than 30% of household income for rent or mortgage costs; and

WHEREAS, cost-burdened households have less income to spend on basic needs such as food, transportation, education, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, an adequate supply of safe, decent and affordable housing at all income levels is critical to healthy families, helps create and maintain jobs, and impacts the quality of life and economic prosperity of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Richland County desires to establish a local program for preserving and developing affordable housing that is sufficiently flexible to meet varied and evolving housing needs and priorities while providing housing that is safe, sound, and financially viable; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Council of Richland County that revenue sources for this local affordable housing program be identified during the County's annual budgeting process and through a county-wide public referendum; and

WHEREAS, on **(DATE)** the Council of Richland County approved a motion directing the drafting of an ordinance establishing an affordable housing trust fund; and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held by the Council of Richland County, at which public hearing all interested persons were given an opportunity to be heard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF RICHLAND COUNTY OF RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS #TH DAY OF (MONTH), 2020, AS FOLLOWS:

The recitations above are true and correct and are incorporated herein by Reference #, is hereby amended to create a new article to be numbered Article # and entitled the "Richland County Affordable Housing Act", which shall hereafter read as follows:

Article #. RICHLAND COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND ACT

SECTION 1: Definitions

For the purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

“Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund” or “Fund” means the fund established pursuant to this article.

“Richland County Affordable Housing Fund Program” or “Program” means the program established pursuant to this article for the purpose of promoting the preservation and production of affordable housing for very low and households in Richland County.

“Affordable Housing” means residential housing for rent or sale that is appropriately priced for rent or sale to a person or family whose income does not exceed 80% of the median income for the local area (AMI), with adjustments for household size, according to the latest figures available from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), so that no more than 30% of that person’s income is spent on rent/mortgage and utilities.

“Low-Income Household” means one or more natural persons or a family that has a total annual gross household income that does not exceed 80 percent of the median annual income adjusted for family size for households in Richland County within the Columbia, SC metropolitan statistical area, as published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“Very Low Income Household” means one or more natural persons or a family that has a total annual gross household income that does not exceed 50 percent of the median annual income adjusted for family size for households in Richland County within the Columbia, SC metropolitan statistical area, as published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SECTION 2: Establishment of Richland County Affordable Housing Fund Program and Purpose

There is hereby established the Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund Program (the "Program"). The Program is established for the purpose of promoting the production and preservation of affordable housing for very low- and low-income households in Richland County.

SECTION 3: Establishment of Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund

The Clerk, as accountant for the Board of County Commissioners, is hereby directed to establish and maintain a fund known as the Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund within the accounts of a nonprofit organization to be created and entitled the “Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund.”

SECTION 4: Funding

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund shall be funded by an annual budgeted allocation of funds from the County (specificity of source) and by millage amounts determined by public referenda. Other sources of funding may include, but are not limited to:

- A. Private cash donations from individuals and corporations designated for the Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- B. Payments from developers in lieu of participation in current or future affordable housing programs.
- C. Matching funds from a federal or state affordable housing trust fund; or a state program designated to fund an affordable housing trust fund.
- D. Principal and interest from Affordable Housing Trust Fund loan repayments and all other income from Trust Fund activities.
- E. The sale of real and personal property.
- F. Local government appropriations, development fees, and other funds as designated from time to time by the county council.
- G. Tax Increment Finance (TIF) pooled funds.

SECTION 5: Allocation and Use of Funds for Program; Annual Budget Preparation

(a) All monies allocated by the Council of Richland County for the Program shall be appropriated in the Fund. Monies deposited in the Fund, including any interest earnings on such monies and repayments of loans made from such monies, shall be used solely for the purposes of the Program as provided in this article.

(b) In preparing the proposed annual budget for each fiscal year for submission to the Council of Richland County, the County's Budget Officer shall insure that each such budget includes an allocation of at least \$500,000 in new Countywide General Fund monies for the Program and the inclusion in the Fund as an account balance of any monies previously allocated to the Program and interest earned on such monies which were not expended for the Program within the prior fiscal year.

Section 5.1: Use of Program Funds

(a) Funds allocated to the Program shall be used to provide grants and low-interest, long term loans for projects to create, rehabilitate and sustain affordable housing for very low- or low-income households in Richland County.

(b) The Program shall include, without limitation, providing assistance through production, acquisition, rehabilitation and preservation of land and/or housing units for rental and homeownership activities. Program funds shall not be used for supportive housing services such as daycare or job training.

(c) Not more than **X** percent of the funds allocated to the Program may be used to cover administrative expenses.

(d) Not less than 50 percent of the funds allocated to the Program shall be spent on affordable housing for very low-income households.

(e) Not less than 30 percent of the funds allocated to the Program shall be spent on affordable housing for low income households.

SECTION 6: Program Administration

(a) The Program shall be administered by a publicly chartered nonprofit organization created on behalf of the Council of Richland County and consistent with the adopted Plan. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of the nonprofit organization to develop and implement policies and procedures necessary for operation of the Program.

(b) The Board of the Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund shall disburse Program funds consistent with the Plan and its adopted policies and procedures and shall monitor the use of Program funds for compliance with the purposes of the Program and the conditions pursuant to which the funds were granted or loaned. The Affordable Housing Services Department shall also maintain the financial and other records of the Program.

(c) All projects to be awarded Program funding shall be approved by the Board of the Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

SECTION 7: Governance

The Program shall be administered by an administrative board of 11 members representing the following fields and interests.

1. Development/Constructions or Real-Estate
2. Banking/Finance
3. Legal
4. Non-Profit Organization
5. For-Profit Organization
6. Low-Income Individual
7. Very Low-Income Individual
8. Education and/or Medical
9. Community Advocate
10. Columbia City Council
11. Richland County Council

Section 7.1: Powers and Duties of the Board

The Program Board may use its funds to assist proposed projects or programs to develop or preserve affordable housing for persons of very low- and low- income to include:

- A. Providing gap financing for affordable housing developments.

- B. Making loans at interest rates below or at market rates in order to strengthen the financial feasibility of proposed projects.
- C. Guaranteeing of low-interest, long term loans.
- D. Financing the acquisition, demolition, and disposition of property for affordable housing projects.
- E. Financing construction of public improvements and utilities to aid proposed affordable residential developments.
- F. Financing the rehabilitation, remodeling, or new construction of affordable housing.
- G. Tenant and project based rental assistance.
- H. Funding for acquisition and rehab in conjunction with related housing trust fund projects.
- I. Funding to facilitate affordable homeownership opportunities including down payment assistance, second mortgages, closing costs, etc.
- J. Administrative costs associated with affordable housing programs.
- K. Interim financing of public costs for affordable housing projects in anticipation of a permanent financing source (i.e. construction financing, bond sale, etc.)

Section 7.2: Director

There is hereby created the position of Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be hired by and report to the county administrator. The Executive Director shall be a person with education, training, skills, and/or experiences that are satisfactory to the county administrator and a majority of the Program Board.

Section 7.3: Staff, Personnel, and Compensation

The Executive Director shall have staff and assistants as are necessary to the operation of the Fund and the performance of his/her duties. They shall be subject to the county personnel system and their compensation determined accordingly.

SECTION 8: Accountability and Reporting

The Program shall report annually, or as requested, to the Richland County Council on the use of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund account including, but not limited to:

- A. The number of grants and loans made,
- B. The number and types of residential units assisted through the account,
- C. The number of households for whom rental assistance payments were provided,
- D. Amount of funds leveraged,
- E. Amount of funds used

Richland County shall provide the full report to the public annually and post the report on its website.

SECTION 9: Inclusion in The Richland County Code

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be included and incorporated in the **Richland County Code**, as an addition or amendment thereto, and shall be appropriately renumbered to conform to the uniform numbering system of the **Richland County Code**.

SECTION 10: Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not be construed to render the remaining provisions of this Ordinance invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 11: Filing of Ordinance and Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon receipt of acknowledgement that a copy of this Ordinance has been filed with the Secretary of State.

MORE Justice Housing Committee
Affordable Housing Trust Fund Priorities

Qualities we would like to see in the Trust Fund:

- Have a significant portion of funds (around 70-75%) reserved for serving those at or below 50% AMI. (\$34,450/annually for family of four)
- Oversight Board with participation from the Richland County Council, City of Columbia Council, MORE Justice, and other nonprofit stakeholders (ex: Habitat for Humanity, Homeless No More, SC Uplift, etc.)
- Funding to be designated to housing in local municipalities (City of Columbia/Richland County).
- Funds can be used for multiple purposes, including the creation and rehabilitation of affordable housing.
- Funds will be dispersed as grants or low-interest, long and short-term loans (at or below market rate).
- Projects retain an affordability period of at least 30 years.
- Trust Fund will report annually on its activity to the oversight board, the city, and the county.
- Publicly-chartered 501c3.
- Board will be governed by SC Conflict of Interest Laws (https://www.lawserver.com/law/state/south-carolina/sc-code/south_carolina_code_34-28-440)
- All meetings of the board will be open to the public.

“Shall Richland County Government designate two mill of ad valorem millage, beginning July 1, 2021, for support of the Richland County Housing Trust Fund, for said fund to provide loans and grants for the acquisition and development of new affordable renter- and owner-occupied housing, for the rehabilitation and preservation of existing multi-family residential rental housing, and for rental assistance and homeownership assistance to persons of very low, low and moderate income with an independent review of all expenditures at least annually?”