

COUNCIL ON HOUSING  
430 Kings Hwy.  
Luther Tower  
Dover, DE 19904  
February 12, 2020

**Motions**

- December 11, 2019 Minutes

**Important Dates:**

- Joint Finance Hearing Committee Meeting – Legislative Hall, February 18, 2020
- DE-NAHRO Fair Housing Training – Polytech Adult Ed. Center, March 3, 2020
- Bond Bill Committee Hearing – Legislative Hall, March 5, 2020
- DE State Chamber of Commerce Spring Brunch – Del Tech, Dover, March 19, 2020

Mr. White, Chair, called to order the public session of the Council on Housing meeting at 2:00 pm, February 12, 2020. In addition to Mr. White, the following Council members were present:

Dianne W. Casey      Connie Harrington      Francis Julian      Corrine Massey  
Donna Mitchell      Doug Motley      Norma Zumsteg

The following council members were absent and excused from the meeting:

Garrett Grier

**Also attending:**

Anas Ben Addi, Director of Delaware State Housing Authority, DSHA  
Jonathan Adkins-Taswell, Planner III, DSHA  
Shanná L. Alicea, Administrative Assistant III, DSHA  
Susan Eliason, Director of Housing Development, DSHA  
Marlena Gibson, Director of Policy and Planning, DSHA  
Dawn Momot, Housing Finance Manager, DSHA

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Mitchell moved and Ms. Massey seconded that the Minutes of December 11, 2019 meeting be approved. The minutes were approved with 1 abstention by Ms. Zumsteg, who was not present at the December meeting.

**DSHA REPORT** - Mr. Ben Addi

- **Budget**
  - FY21 Budget as recommended to the Governor has been released.
  - The Governor recommended \$4 million for SRAP and \$4 million for HDF.
  - The DDD has been reduced to \$5.6 million as recommended by the Governor.
  - \$8 million has been recommended for the SNHF
  - The Governor recommended \$6 million for the ARHP funding.
  - Applications for QAP were released in January and are due back at the end of April.
  - HDF Homeownership grants which were recommended by Council and approved by

the director of DSHA were announced at an event in January in Claymont. Ms. Casey and Mr. White both attended the event. One of the recipients, 2 Fish, was chosen to highlight the work. This event received great press by the newspapers, radio, and the news. 2 Fish has done a great job by taking people from work release, getting them into a job training program at Del Tech, and giving them the opportunity to work on some of the homes that 2 Fish is flipping.

- DSHA staff is currently working on releasing the NOFA for last year's funding of the SNHF sometime in March.
- DSHA is working with Health and Social Services to jointly bring in a consultant to help with integrating health and housing.
- DSHA is working with the other Housing Authorities to see how the agencies can balance between the safety of the communities but also be a little more flexible by helping some of the reentry citizens. DSHA has recruited Vera Institute as a consultant to work with DSHA and the other 5 Housing Authority agencies to start a reentry pilot program that will target as a first step family unification. This step will focus on anyone who has exited the correctional system and has family in public housing. The plan is to find a way to bring them on as a guest under the Housing Authority Guest Policy and to work with the Department of Corrections, especially Probation and some of the consultants, to make sure there are services being offered, but to make sure the program is being fully monitored to quickly correct any problems, should any come up.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Mitchell  
None
- **HOUSING POLICY:** Ms. Casey
  - Wilmington Housing Authority will be attending March COH meeting. They are currently updating their 5-year plan and their annual goals within the plan.
  - On February 24<sup>th</sup> they will be going over their 5-year plan at the Public Hearing in Wilmington.
  - Mr. White disclosed that he is on the board of Wilmington Housing Authority as Vice Chair and he is also Chair of the Development Committee.
  - Mr. Taswell stated that all Housing Authorities that receive HUD funding are currently updating their 5-year consolidated plan.
  - A round table will be meeting soon on African American Homeownership.
- **OPERATIONS:** Ms. Harrington  
None
- **LOAN REVIEW:** Mr. Julian

The committee met February 4, 2020 and reviewed one HDF grant request. After due discussion, Loan Review made the following recommendation to the Council:

- DSHA Pre-Purchase Homeownership Education and Counseling Funding - Resolution #602. Mr. Julian moved and Ms. Mitchell seconded that the resolution be approved. The motion passed with two abstentions by Ms. Harrington and Ms. Zumsteg.

Ms. Momot was present to explain the purpose and need for the Pre-Purchase Homeownership Education and Counseling Funding to Council.

Mr. White asked that future reports for the Pre-Purchase Homeownership Education and Counseling Funding show how many applicants whose income was less than 200% of the federal poverty level had their fees waived. Mr. White also wanted to know if the report could be updated going forward to show how many of the participants of the counseling program actually buy a home and the demographics of the participants to help Housing Policy.

**OLD / NEW BUSINESS:** Ms. Eliason

- Ms. Eliason was present to give Council an update on Home4Good program.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

None

**SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at Appoquinmink State Service Center, Middletown, DE from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Shanná L. Alicea

Note: Copies of materials referenced as “attached” in these Minutes are available upon request.