

COUNCIL ON HOUSING  
Public Session via Conference Call  
September 9, 2020

**Motions**

- August 12, 2020 Minutes

Ms. Casey called to order the public session of the Council on Housing meeting at 2:00 pm, September 9, 2020. In addition to Ms. Casey, the following Council members were present:

Francis Julian	Connie Harrington	Corrine Massey	Doug Motley
Amy Walls	Vincent M. White		

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

Garrett Grier	Lillian Harrison	Donna Mitchell	Norma Zumsteg
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**Also attending:**

Anas Ben Addi, DSHA  
Jonathan Adkins-Taswell, DSHA  
Shanná L. Alicea, DSHA  
Susan Eliason, DSHA  
Marlena Gibson, DSHA

**Guests present:**

Rachel Stucker, Housing Alliance Delaware

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. White moved and Ms. Massey seconded that the Minutes of the August 12, 2020 meeting be approved. The motion was passed unanimously with the motion that the minutes be amended to reflect the correct spelling of the new member, Amy Walls' last name.

**DSHA REPORT** – Mr. Ben Addi

- **Budget** – Process for 2022 budget has started. Agencies are asked by OMB on behalf of the Governor to submit anything that would be new or different from the previous budget. An internal follow-up meeting, also called the target meeting, will be held with DSHA and OMB in mid-September. After receiving feedback and making some adjustments, an official budget request will be presented at one of the first public hearing meetings with OMB sometime in November. Top representatives from each agency will have several meetings with OMB and the Governor, to discuss further adjustments to their proposed budget. At the start of the new year, the Governor will present his recommendations for the budget. Then additional budget hearings will take place with the JFC and Bond Bill Committees. These bills will then be brought to the floor and voted on. Once approved and signed by the Governor they will become the appropriation documents.

- LIHTC meeting have begun. DSHA's staff will meet with applicants who were awarded 2020 LIHTC to discuss the details of their projects, timeline, construction, and other items regarding their projects.
- The next application round of the DDD program will open sometime around the end of September, early October.
- Housing Trust Fund has been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The COVID19 related program, DEHAP (rental assistance) was reopened once funds were secured from the State and the County which came through the CARES Act Funding in the amount of \$40 million. \$20 million went towards DEHAP and \$20 million went towards DEMAP (mortgage assistance). There are over 1000 DEHAP applications in the system and over \$2 million has been reserved for approximately 671 of these applicants who have qualified. These funds will need to be disbursed by the end of this year unless Congress extends the CARES Act.  
DEMAP is similar in process to DEHAP with housing counselors who process application on DSHA's behalf. There is a 24 to 48-hour response turn around if an applicant is approved.
- The African American Task Force is an advisory committee that was recently created by the Black Caucus within both chambers of the State legislature. The Director of DSHA is one of the members of the task force along with Representative Bolden and the Chief Operations Officer of Delaware State University, Cleon Cauley. The first meeting was held in August. There are several sub-committees, all designed to study inequalities for underserved African American communities in the First State. One of the sub-committees is chaired by Senator Tizzy (Elizabeth) Lockman, who has been a longtime advocate for housing.
- The COVID19 Resurgence Advisory Committee is another committee that was created recently by the Governor under executive order. The role of this committee is to look at the proactive actions that could be taken based on past experiences of COVID19 to make sure agencies within the State are ready with operations that work should there be a resurgence of the virus.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Casey

The committee is currently working on the draft of the Annual Report. It has been sent to Housing Policy Committee for any edits, updates or recommendations pertaining to the Policy Committee section. A review of the draft is anticipated to be ready for Council's review and approval by next Council meeting.

### **OPERATIONS:** Ms. Harrington

Ms. Harrington mentioned that the By Laws may need to be looked at and updated accordingly.

### **HOUSING POLICY:** Mr. White

Will meet with the Committee's members to discuss and facilitate getting a report on production of affordable housing and supportive services housing.

### **LOAN REVIEW:** Mr. Julian

None

### **OLD / NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Stucker of Housing Alliance Delaware was present to discuss the background of her organization, the four primary programs of her organization, data information they collect on homelessness within the state and any updates, and the role they play in response to the COVID19 pandemic.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

None

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shanná L. Alicea". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "A".

Shanná L. Alicea

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