



## BROWARD HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER:** A regular meeting of the Broward Housing Council was held on Friday, April 25, 2014, commencing at 10:03 a.m., at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC), located at 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Seminar Room 2, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

In absence of the Chair and Vice Chair running a few minutes late, Commissioner Wexler called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:** Roll call was conducted by Ms. Elizabeth Kersting.

**Council Members Present:**

Robert Baldwin	Mercedes Nunez
Richard Barkett	Dr. Rosalind Osgood
Ann Deibert	Frank Schnidman
Frances Esposito	Marcia Barry-Smith
Vice Mayor Caryl Hattan	Henry Sniezek
Richard Lemack	Lisa Vecchi, Vice Chair
Gino Moro	Commissioner Lois Wexler

**Council Members Absent**

Monica Navarro, Chair  
George Castrataro

**Staff:**

Angela Chin	Elizabeth Kersting
Rosemarie Fallon	Ralph Stone
Mark Journey, Assistant County Attorney	Michael Wright

**Guests**

James Carras, Carras Community Investment Inc.

### I. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

***MOTION:** It was moved by Vice Mayor Caryl Hattan and seconded by Fran Esposito to approve the Minutes of the Broward Housing Council Meeting of February 14, 2014. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

### II. CHAIR'S REPORT

No Chair's report.

### III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Stone informed Council members that on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the proposed amendment to the Administrative Rules Document on Land Use Planning, creating a new Article 10 entitled, "Rules for Implementation and Administration of Broward County Land Use Plan Policy 1.07.07," relating to affordable housing policies in addition to the recommendation to support the \$1.00 per square foot in-lieu of fee as a baseline for situations where municipalities have not demonstrated compliance with Policy 1.07.07 via professionally acceptable data and municipal programs. He also provided an update on the proposed agreement reached between the

State and House Budget Committee on the amount of funding recommended for the Sadowski Trust Fund for FY 2014-2015: State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program \$100 million, and State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program \$67 million. He indicated this appropriation is the highest level of funding since FY 2007-2008.

#### **IV. Homeless Initiative Partnership (HIP) Administrator's Report – Michael Wright HIP Advisory Board report: Vice Mayor Caryl Hattan**

Mr. Wright informed Council members that at the March 11, 2014 Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing, the Board approved a Resolution to restructure the Homeless Initiative Partnership Advisory Board thereby changing its name to the Homeless Continuum of Care Board (HCCB) and adding additional categorical seats to its membership. In addition, Commissioner Wexler informed Council members that as part of the restructuring, a permanent position for a liaison from the Housing Council will serve on the Advisory Board. *Vice Chair Lisa Vecchi entered the meeting at 10:10 a.m.*

Mr. Wright mentioned that the HCCB received a partial renewal award for 18 of 22 HUD CoC projects that were submitted totaling approximately \$8.8 million. He also indicated that a portion of the state trust fund appropriation will be used to fund homeless programs in addition to the SHIP and SAIL awards previously mentioned by Mr. Stone. In addition, he mentioned a Bill that was forwarded to the Governor for signature in support of recurring funding for the Homeless Challenge Grant by increasing the local coalition funding by \$1 million totaling \$3 million which equates to approximately \$45 thousand for Broward County. Mr. Wright then provided an update on the Point-in-Time (PIT) conducted this year from January 21-23, 2013. He stated that the PIT count in Broward County showed that overall, the number of homeless people decreased by 1.6 percent, from 2,810 to 2,766 compared to the 2013 PIT count; however, unsheltered persons increased by 5.3 percent from 829 to 879, compared to the same count done in January 2013, which is attributed to conducting the count over three days. Mr. Wright provided a brief update on the funds received from Broward's Behavioral Health Care Coalition that housed approximately 50 people through supportive services which includes the Broward County Housing Authority, Henderson Behavioral Health and Chrysalis Health.

Commissioner Wexler stated that as Vice Chair to Broward Behavioral Health Care Coalition she felt that there needs to be a conversation regarding the City of Fort Lauderdale in terms of opportunities that may arise in the areas of mental health, housing and jobs for the homeless. She stated that it is with regret that Henderson Mental Health lost funds of \$1.8 million for an apartment unit complex due to a timeframe situation. She stated that what is occurring in Fort Lauderdale, and other cities in Broward is the attraction of the homeless from other areas to South Florida which has become a financial issue for their daily care, particularly with the new ordinances in Fort Lauderdale. She stated that it is a community issue and it is critical. She indicated that putting the homeless in jail for 30 to 60 days does not solve the problem – it just becomes a revolving door. She stated that without services, training, housing and mental health there is no end to this issue. Commissioner Wexler concluded by stating that this should be a conversation of the HCCB and added to the Housing Council's future Work Program.

Dr. Osgood provided an update about what is taking place in her organization and the church in regards to helping solve the homeless issue. She stated that Broward has done a great job of putting services in place, but a lot of individuals that are being released from different jails, such as Palm Beach and as far away as the jails in Texas, are relocating to Broward because of the social service programs that are available. She explained the process of what takes place when inmates serve their time and then are released. She stated that she spoke to the City of Fort Lauderdale about one bedroom housing. She explained that the City of Fort Lauderdale has a shortage of one bedroom units and are forced to provide shared housing. Dr. Osgood stated that shared housing only works for six months before folks with

substance abuse issues have a conflict and have to be evicted. Dr. Osgood stated that it's an ongoing problem especially when the City says they have to tighten up on zoning. She also spoke about the homeless kids stating that her organization has 35 homeless kids who attend Sunrise Academy that have nowhere to go after school from Friday to Sunday. She indicated that her church provides them with care packages and food, but they are unable to provide for kids with other essential needs. She indicated that many organizations are working in isolation across all sectors who are impacted including the public administrations, law enforcement, university and schools. Dr. Osgood stated organizations need to pull together to have one community conversation so they can plan a strategy moving forward to address this issue. There was a lengthy discussion amongst council members who were all in favor of conducting a group meeting that would involve all stakeholders.

Vice Chair Vecchi stated that Broward County reapplied for a federal grant that enabled her organization, Broward Housing Solutions Inc., to house a minimum of 31 out of 61 adult with chronic issues. She stated that this is a very important issue, a social issue that is costing tax payers an exorbitant amount of money. She stated that people who are homeless are being housed in a jail facility at approximately \$118 per day which will soon be increased to \$121 per day. She stated that not only are the jails being used but there is an overutilization of the hospital emergency rooms which cost approximately \$350 per day for short term care, and \$650 for long term care, totaling an average of \$500 per day. *Mercedes Nunez entered the meeting at 10:25 a.m.*

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Presentation by James Carras, Carras Community Investment, Inc. on the final report, "Evaluation of Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Activities of Banks in Broward County"**

Mr. Carras presented the final report "Evaluation of Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Activities of Banks in Broward County. He spoke briefly about the purpose of the report, and provided a historical background of the banking industry, indicating that there has been much change that has taken place since the CRA was enacted in 1977. He provided information about how the CRA works in Broward County, in terms of identifying key housing credit needs. He then analyzed the CRA performance of the largest banks and provided findings and recommendations for increasing housing lending and investment in Broward County. Approximately 27 recommendations were included in the report in terms of bank and community relations, legislation, residential lending, home buyer counseling, multi-family lending and investment, community development investing, acquisition and home rehabilitation, foreclosures and report dissemination.

Mr. Carras concluded his presentation by stating that in order to facilitate future interaction, the Housing Council should create a searchable and interactive database on the Council's website with each bank and CRA contact person in order to facilitate bank communication between the bank, government and non-profit agencies and community residents concerning CRA issues, needs and opportunities.

Mr. Stone recommended to Vice Chair Vecchi to allow staff to create a matrix listing all of the recommendations from the report that the Council may want to pursue, including engaging the banks by creating a Banking Council that would connect with the Housing Council. In addition to Mr. Stone's recommendation, Commissioner Wexler requested that staff prioritize the list by short-term, mid-term, and long-term phases for the Council to consider at the next meeting. Mr. Carras was applauded for his work on the report and the presentation by Council members.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Election of Officers: Chair and Vice Chair for 2014-2015.**

*MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Wexler and seconded by Ms. Mercedes Nunez to reappoint Ms. Monica Navarro to serve for a one-year term as Chair to the Housing Council. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

*MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Wexler and seconded by Ms. Mercedes Nunez to reappoint Ms. Lisa Vecchi to serve for a one-year term as Vice Chair to the Housing Council. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

### **B. Amend Section 1-618 Attendance Policy, Broward County Code Ordinance**

*MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Wexler and seconded by Mr. Robert Baldwin to direct the Office of the County Attorney to draft an amendment to Section 1-618 of the Broward County Code of Ordinance ("Code") with reference to its Attendance Policy, providing for the changes to Section 1-233 of the Code to be applicable to Council members and be incorporated. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

### **C. FY 2012-2013 Broward Housing Council's Annual Report to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for acceptance at their June 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.**

Mr. Stone spoke briefly regarding the proposed 2013 Broward Housing Council's Annual Report and requested a motion authorizing staff to submit to the Board of County Commissioners for acceptance at their June 10, 2014 Commission meeting. He further commended Ms. Chin for her diligent work in gathering and presenting the information in a clear and detailed format.

*MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Mercedes Nunez and seconded by Ms. Ann Deibert to authorize staff to submit FY 2012-2013 Broward Housing Council's Annual Report for acceptance by the Board of County Commissioners at their June 10, 2014 Commission meeting. The Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

## **VII. INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

These items were informational only with no discussion: The Hardest-Hit Fund Quarterly Report ending December 31, 2013, and the 2014 State Legislative Program.

## **VIII. NEXT HOUSING COUNCIL MEETING**

Friday, June 27, 2014, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
AARLCC – Seminar Room 2

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**Disclosure:** The above captioned Minutes are transcribed in a summary format. To hear the full meeting, a compact disk of the meeting (#DR 14-SC-22) can be provided after 24 hour notice to the Document Control and Minutes Section at 954-357-4900.