



## BROWARD HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER:** A regular meeting of the Broward Housing Council was held on Friday, August 23, 2013, commencing at 10:06 a.m., at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC), located at 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard, Seminar Room 2, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

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

**Council Members Present:**

Monica Navarro, Chair	Frances Esposito
Lisa Vecchi, Vice Chair	Frank Schnidman
Robert Baldwin	Marcia Barry-Smith
Richard Barkett	Henry Sniezek
Ann Deibert	Lois Wexler

**Council Members Absent**

George Castrataro  
Innocent Chinweze  
Paul Figg  
Caryl Hattan  
Richard Lemack  
Mercedes Nunez  
Dr. Rosalind Osgood

**Staff:**

Joni Armstrong-Coffey, County Attorney	Vena Paylo
Angela Chin	Ralph Stone
Rosemary Fallon	Michael Wright
Mark Journey, Assistant County Attorney	
Elizabeth Kersting	

**Guest Attendance**

James Carras, Carras Community Investment Inc.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Navarro acknowledged the reappointments of Council members Robert Baldwin and Richard Lemack by the League of Cities.

Chair Navarro made reference to the Housing Credit Needs Forum that was held at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center on Thursday, August 8, 2013 and provided a synopsis of the event. She thanked those Council members that were in attendance and recognized Council member Marcia Barry-Smith for her role as a moderator on one of the Panels. Chair Navarro recognized Mr. Jim Carras who was selected as the Consultant to Evaluate Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Activities of Banks in Broward County. She deferred the meeting to Mr. Carras. Mr. Carras spoke briefly about the goal of the forum. He stated that the goal was to better understand, learn and discuss the housing needs for homeownership and rental with stakeholders and bankers. The discussion focused on what the present housing financing needs are and, most important, what products, services, and collaborative efforts are needed to enhance housing investment in Broward County. He indicated that a survey will be e-mailed to all banks in Broward County and key stakeholders to further identify what is in demand in terms of housing needs as well as gain a better understanding of what the banks are doing in South Florida.

Mr. Carras indicated that a final report will be prepared and presented to Council members at their October meeting. *Mr. Frank Schnidman entered the meeting at 10:10am.*

## **APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 28, 2013, MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:** *It was moved by Lois Wexler and seconded by Marcia Barry-Smith to approve the Minutes of the Broward Housing Council Meeting of June 28, 2013, as submitted. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Stone introduced County Attorney Ms. Jodi Armstrong–Coffey and Assistant County Attorney Mr. Mark Journey who attended the meeting to answer any questions or concerns regarding the legal opinion provided by her office for the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Koontz v. St. Johns River Water Management District*.

Mr. Stone mentioned that on Thursday, August 22, 2013, the Planning Council held a meeting to discuss potential amendments to Broward County Affordable Housing Policies. He stated that he and Mr. Carras were invited to speak to the panel and provide an assessment on the future of the housing market relating it to the 2011 Broward County Affordable Housing Needs Assessment Study, which was prepared by Dr. Ned Murray and his research team from the Metropolitan Center at Florida International University. He spoke about the real estate market and the present housing situation indicating that housing prices have increased slightly but there is still a tremendous gap in area median income.

Mr. Sniezek also provided an overview of what took place at the Planning Committee meeting in terms of land use amendments in affordable housing and the flexibility rule for residential and commercial development. He stated that the Planning Council will be going before the Board of County Commissioners in September 2013.

Mr. Stone spoke about Broward County's "A Way Home" Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness "Plan" and deferred to Mr. Michal Wright, Homeless Initiative Partnership Administrator. Mr. Wright provided updates that were in place for the County's Ten Year Plan. He referred to copies of the draft that were provided to Council members. He recited a number of suggested plan goals in six broad areas that were provided in terms of affordable housing, one of which included the creation of mandatory inclusionary zoning. He stated that since HIP was in partnership with the Housing Council some of the goals that were included in the updated Plan were in direct correlation with the goals of the Housing Council's Work Program.

Mr. Wright indicated that at the end of the year, the Plan's progress report will be brought before the Housing Council. Mr. Wright informed Council members that the Broward County Homeless Initiative Partnership has been awarded a grant of more than \$1.1 million by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the 2012 HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. In addition, Mr. Wright indicated that part of HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, the Broward County Housing Authority received approximately \$800k towards 100 new vouchers to provide rental assistance to homeless veterans. He concluded by stating that Broward's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval on Tuesday, August 27, 2013. Chair Navarro thanked Mr. Wright for his update.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. FY 2012-2013 Work Program Action Items Update**

Chair Navarro referred to the Housing Council's Work Program Areas of Emphasis Item VI. Evaluate Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Activities by Banks in Broward County. She indicated that the event was titled, "Broward Housing Credit Needs Forum" and not "Housing Needs Forum" and requested the Action Item update in the Work Program reflect the correct name of the forum.

Ms. Barry-Smith congratulated Ms. Paylo in reference to the NACIO 2013 Award of Excellence received for the Housing Council's Website and Quarterly Newsletter as well as posting the BB&T 2H2 Program on the website. She stated that through this posting, they have received positive responses from new members in terms of meeting attendance and communication.

Chair Navarro mentioned the Facebook and Twitter social media links added to the website and requested Council members support the website and "Like Us on Facebook and Twitter."

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Introduced by Council member and Commissioner Lois Wexler, a Proposed Resolution for the Charter Amendment Ballot Language**

Council member Lois Wexler referenced the draft Resolution submitted by County Attorney Joni Armstrong-Coffey regarding the proposed Charter Amendment Ballot Language (Section 11.07). A Strike through version of Article XI Section 11.07 of the Broward County Housing Council "Exhibit A" was brought before the Council members for review and consideration. Ms. Coffey provided some background information about the Housing Council Board, and the lack of flexibility in the language that governs the Charter. Council member Wexler stated that after the five years since its inception, there is a need to modify the language of the Housing Council Charter in the areas of the required number of meetings, the number of membership vacancies as well as the need to have duties and responsibilities. There was a lengthy discussion between County Attorney Coffey and Council members regarding the pros and cons of changes to be made, the political process and the long term ramifications in terms of the County Commissioners appointment process, the scope of mandatory duties and responsibilities and the composition of what the Housing Council as an advisory board should be. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair requested that staff work with the County Attorney's Office drafting some proposed language for the Resolution and bring back the draft at the next Housing Council meeting.

## **VI. Informational Only**

### **A. A memorandum from the Office of the County Attorney regarding a legal opinion to the U.S. Supreme Court's Koontz Ruling**

Chair Navarro made reference to a request made by the Council at the last Housing Council meeting for the Office of the County Attorney to provide a legal opinion regarding the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Koontz vs. St. Johns River Water Management District and whether there is an impact on Broward County's land use code. Ms. Joni Armstrong-Coffey, County Attorney, stated that after reviewing the court's ruling, there was no impact to Broward County's Land Use Plan in terms of Broward's affordable housing programs.

**B. Letter to the City of Fort Lauderdale City Commission requesting they engage a qualified firm to perform an Affordable Housing and Market Housing Study.**

Chair Navarro informed the Council that staff forwarded a letter to the Mayor of the City of Ft. Lauderdale dated August 15, 2014 in reference to the Housing Council's support for the City of Fort Lauderdale efforts to engage a qualified firm to perform an Affordable Housing and Housing Market Study.

**IV. Next Council Meeting**

Friday, October 25, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
AARLCC – Seminar Room 2

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 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 13-SC-67) can be provided after 24 hour notice to the Document Control and Minutes Section at 954-357-4900.