

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 21, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A WORK GROUP TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WORKFORCE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

ISSUE: Establishment of a Workforce and Affordable Housing Work Group

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached resolution creating a Workforce and Affordable Housing Work Group.

DISCUSSION: On June 7, 2006, Council held a work session on workforce and affordable housing at which a variety of speakers, including both City staff and representatives of other jurisdictions and organizations, shared information and ideas on various approaches to affordable housing. At the conclusion of the work session, Mayor Euille requested that staff return to Council with a proposal for a work group to make recommendations to Council on affordable housing.

The attached resolution outlines the charge and composition of a proposed Affordable Housing Strategy Work Group. The work group would be completed with its work once it makes recommendations to Council. The recommended charge to the group is as follows:

1. Review information on City demographics, and characteristics and affordability of the City's housing stock.
2. Review tools and mechanisms for workforce and affordable housing production and housing assistance, including those used in the City as well as elsewhere, to include:
 - rental assistance programs
 - home purchase assistance programs
 - other affordability programs for assistance to renters and homeowners
 - mechanisms for preservation of existing workforce and affordable housing
 - land use and financing tools for development of workforce and affordable rental housing

- land use and financing tools for development of workforce and affordable sales housing
3. Review existing City goals and targets for affordable housing.
 4. Make recommendations concerning the use of additional tools and mechanisms in Alexandria.
 5. Make recommendations for new or modified workforce and affordable housing goals and targets, to include numbers of units to be developed or preserved with specific mechanisms, and specify the funding and other resources necessary to achieve these goals.

The resolution also contains the following recommended composition of the work group:

- 2 members of City Council
- 1 Affordable Housing Advisory Committee member
- 1 Planning Commission member
- 1 Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority representative
- 1 Alexandria Housing Development Corporation board member
- 1 Housing Action representative
- 1 Non-profit developer
- 1 For-profit developer with affordable housing experience
- 1 Land use attorney with affordable housing experience
- 1 Person with expertise in affordable housing finance
- 1 Chamber of Commerce representative
- 1 Civic association representative

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ATTACHMENT: Resolution

STAFF:

Mildrilyn Stephens Davis, Director, Office of Housing
 Helen McIlvaine, Deputy Director, Office of Housing

RESOLUTION No. ____

WHEREAS, affordable housing is a high priority in the City of Alexandria as reflected in the City Council’s Strategic Plan goal calling for a caring community that is diverse and affordable, and its related objective that an increased number of affordable housing units are available with emphasis on low and moderate income city workers, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

WHEREAS, the City operates a variety of affordable programs to make housing more affordable and also supports the production of affordable housing through various funding and land use mechanisms, and

WHEREAS, there are additional mechanisms for supporting affordable housing that merit further exploration for potential use in the City of Alexandria, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

There is hereby established an ad hoc work group known as the Workforce and Affordable Housing Work Group.

The Work Group shall consist of 13 members. The composition of the work group shall include two members of City Council; one member of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, one member of the Planning Commission, one member of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, one representative of the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation, one representative of Housing Action, one non-profit housing developer, one for-profit developer with affordable housing experience, one land use attorney

with affordable housing experience, one person with expertise in affordable housing finance, one Chamber of Commerce representative, and one civic association representative.

The term of the Work Group shall be one year with the ability to continue for an additional year if needed.

Members of the Work Group shall be appointed by the Mayor, with input from other members of the City Council; provided, that a member who is the representative of an organization shall be nominated by the organization. The members appointed shall serve until the expiration of the term of the work group; provided, that a member who is the representative of an organization shall cease to be a member at such time that such member shall cease to be a member in good standing of the organization for which such member serves as representative and may be replaced by another representative appointed by the Mayor.

The Work Group will:

- (1) Review information on City demographics, and characteristics and affordability of the City's housing stock.
- (2) Review tools and mechanisms for workforce and affordable housing production and housing assistance, including those used in the City as well as elsewhere, to include:
 - rental assistance programs
 - home purchase assistance programs
 - other affordability programs for assistance to renters and homeowners
 - mechanisms for preservation of existing workforce and affordable housing
 - land use and financing tools for development of workforce and affordable rental housing

- land use and financing tools for development of workforce and affordable sales housing

(3) Review existing City goals and targets for workforce and affordable housing.

(4) Make recommendations concerning the use of additional tools and mechanisms in Alexandria.

(5) Make recommendations for new or modified affordable housing goals and targets, to include numbers of units to be developed or preserved with specific mechanisms, and specify the funding and other resources necessary to achieve these goals.

The Work Group may adopt rules and regulations on procedure and other matters so long as same are not inconsistent with the City Code including, but not limited to, the establishment of sub-committees through which it may carry on its functions and purposes.

The Mayor shall appoint from among the members a convenor, who shall serve as chairman.

The City Manager shall designate City staff as needed to provide administrative and logistical support to the work group.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 27th day of June, 2006.

Adopted: _____

WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2195

WHEREAS, affordable housing is a high priority in the City of Alexandria as reflected in the City Council's Strategic Plan goal calling for a caring community that is diverse and affordable, and its related objective that an increased number of affordable housing units are available with emphasis on low and moderate income city workers, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

WHEREAS, the City operates a variety of affordable programs to make housing more affordable and also supports the production of affordable housing through various funding and land use mechanisms, and

WHEREAS, there are additional mechanisms for supporting affordable housing that merit further exploration for potential use in the City of Alexandria, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

There is hereby established an ad hoc work group known as the Affordable Housing Strategy Work Group.

The composition of the work group shall include two members of City Council as liaisons, and 14 members, as follows: one member of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee; one member of the Planning Commission; one member of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority; one representative of the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation; one representative of Housing Action; one non-profit housing developer; one for-profit developer with affordable housing experience; one land use attorney with affordable housing experience; one person with expertise in affordable housing finance; one Chamber of Commerce representative; one teacher, police officer, or City employee; one representative of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, one representative from the Commission on Aging, and one civic association representative.

The term of the Work Group shall be one year, with the understanding that the term shall not extend past the sunset date of September 1, 2007.

Members of the Work Group shall be appointed by the Mayor, with input from other members of the City Council; provided, that a member who is the representative of an organization shall be nominated by the organization. The members appointed shall serve until the expiration of the term of the Work Group; provided, that a member who is the representative of an organization shall cease to be a member at such time that such member shall cease to be a member in good standing of the organization for which such member serves as representative and may be replaced by another representative appointed by the Mayor.

The Work Group will:

(1) Review information on City demographics, and characteristics and affordability of the City's housing stock.

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(3) Review existing City goals and targets for affordable housing.

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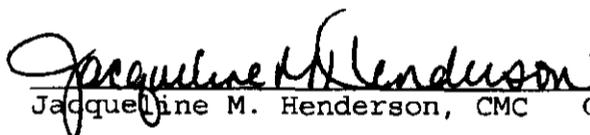
The city manager shall designate City staff as needed to provide administrative and logistical support to the work group.

ADOPTED: June 27, 2006



WILLIAM D. EULLE MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk