



## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Department of Community Development  
807 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701  
Golden Belt Building 2, Suite 200



### **Minutes - Regular Meeting November 26, 2012**

The Durham Citizens Advisory Committee met on the above date and time with the following members present: DeWarren K. Langley (Chairman), SaKoyra Bullock (Vice Chairwoman), April Johnson (Secretary), Anitra Bailey, Alice Cheek, Delvin Davis, Richard Fuqua, Clark Grundler, Anthony Royster (via phone), and Will Sutton.

Others Present: Lloyd Schmeidler (Project Manager, Department of Community Development), Brian Tipton (FLS Interpreter), and Mary-Beth Brown (FLS, Interpreter).

Excused Absence: Dilcy Burton, Rashaun Gross, and Roger Loyd

#### **Subject: Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm by Chairman Langley who welcomed everyone.

#### **Subject: Roll Call & Introductions**

Secretary Johnson called roll.

Chairman Langley noted that he received prior notification from Committee Members Burton, Gross and Loyd of their inability to attend the meeting thus their absences were excused. He also noted the appointment of Anitra Bailey by the City Council on November 5, 2012 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Lynn Holloway.

Committee Member Bailey introduced herself to the Committee.

He acknowledged the presence of a quorum.

#### **Subject: Action on the Agenda**

Chairman Langley asked the Committee to review the agenda and make any additions and/or modifications followed by action on the agenda.

**Motion** by Chairman Langley and seconded by Vice Chairwoman Bullock to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Subject: Action on Minutes**

Chairman Langley asked the Committee to review the minutes from the regular meeting held on October 22, 2012 and the special meetings held on November 10, 2012 and make any additions and/or modifications followed by action on the minutes.

**Motion** by Chairman Langley and seconded by Committee Member Grundler to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on October 22, 2012. The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** by Chairman Langley and seconded by Committee Member Fuqua to approve the special meetings held on November 10, 2012. The motion passed unanimously.

**Subject: Draft 2011-2012 Annual Report**

Chairman Langley advised the committee that each city/county board and committee must submit an annual report of accomplishments for the fiscal year to the City Council and Board of County Commissioners. The committee reviewed each section of the report for discussion and revision. Committee members made suggestions. Chairman Langley requested approval of the Annual Report with the modifications.

The Committee also discussed how to continue to increase committee visibility to the community and City Council and Board of County Commissioners. Chairman Langley noted that the

**Motion** by Secretary Johnson and seconded by Committee Member Fuqua to approve the 2011-2012 Annual Report with modifications. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Langley explained that the 2011-2012 Annual Report will be submitted to staff for review prior to submission to the City County and Board of County Commissioners.

**Subject: 2012 Continuum of Care Applications for New Project Funding Evaluation & Recommendation Report**

Chairman Langley explained that Pursuant to the Homelessness & Homeless Prevention: An Evaluation & Recommendation Report [March 24, 2011], the CAC provides an initial evaluation, rank and recommendation of applications pertaining to the Continuum of Care Grant Competition Program and other homeless initiatives to the Homeless Service Advisory Committee (HSAC).

The Report consolidates the evaluation of each application using the Continuum of Care Scorecard based on six factors: (1) Organizational Capacity, (2) Correctness of the Application, (3) Budget, Leverage & Match, (4) U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Priorities, (5) Scope of Services and (6) Agency's Relationship to the Community & Participants. Additionally, the Report recommends the rank of new projects for funding.

Chairman Langley recused himself from the evaluation, discuss, comment or rank of the Breaking Barriers Application. He read a printed copy of the disclosure statement to the Committee of prior employment with the Housing Authority of the City of Durham (DHA). Chairman Langley noted that he does not currently have business ties to SHA, however to avoid the appearance of impropriety involving the decision-making or use of Continuum of Care funds. He explained that his disclosure and recuse seeks to maintain the confidence of the citizens, City Council and Board of County Commissioners in the integrity and trust of the Committee's evaluations and recommendations. Each committee member received a printed copy of the disclosure.

**Motion** by Vice Chairwoman Bullock to rank the Carolina Homeless Information Network (CHIN) as the first priority project and seconded by Secretary April Johnson. The motion failed with one yeas (Committee Member Grundler) and seven nays after discussion. Chairman Langley abstained.

Committee Member Fuqua asked Mr. Schmeidler if it was necessary to rank projects due to the projects being so different in nature. Mr. Schmeidler advised the Committee that the Homeless Services Advisory Committee's priority is HMIS services as well as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He also commented that ranking is not too significant this year.

Chairman Langley reminded the Committee of the HUD's priority to end chronic homelessness by the end of 2015. Mr. Schmeidler provided more background information on how CHIN was funded prior to the CoC application and the level of participation of other counties to the statewide HMIS system. After discussion the Committee commented in general that at this time and especially during the current recession that it was more important to provide permanent supportive housing services to the homeless.

At 6:37pm Committee Member Royster dropped the call during the discussion. Mr. Schmeidler attempted to call Committee Member Royster back but was unsuccessful.

**Motion** by Vice Chairwoman Bullock to rank Breaking Barriers as the first priority project and seconded by Sutton. The motion passed with seven yeas and one nay (Committee Member Grundler). Chairman Langley abstained.

**Motion** by Johnson to rank CHIN as the second priority project and seconded by Vice Chairwoman Bullock. The motion passed with seven yeas and one nay (Committee Member Grundler). Chairman Langley abstained.

### **Subject: Applicants for Permanent Housing Bonus**

Mr. Schmeidler provided information on the Permanent Housing Bonus (PHB).

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) establishing the funding criteria for the 2012 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition on November 9, 2012. The notice confirmed that the Durham Continuum of Care is eligible to apply for up to \$975,392 in funding, plus \$97,539 for a permanent housing bonus project that must be used to serve chronically homeless persons.

The Department of Community Development (Department) is seeking applications from affordable housing nonprofits to propose the creation of permanent housing for 100 percent chronically homeless people with priority on serving those who have the longest histories of homelessness.

The application deadline is Monday, December 10, 2012 at 4pm.

Mr. Schmeidler commented that the Department asked the project agents of Breaking Barriers to choose to apply for the bonus funds or the pool of funds overall for CoC funding. Breaking Barriers chose to apply for overall pool of funds since it was the larger sum available. However the Department distributed request for applications for the PHB since no organization applied for the PHB to date.

Committee Member Fuqua asked Mr. Schmeidler if it was possible for Breaking Barriers to apply for

both sources of funds. Mr. Schmeidler answered in the affirmative that Breaking Barriers could indeed apply for the CoC Permanent Supportive Housing grant and the PHB grant.

Chairman Langley asked Mr. Schmeidler what role, if any, the Committee will have in the applications review process for the PHB. Mr. Schmeidler responded that the role of the Committee is at the pleasure of the Committee and would depend on how quickly the Committee can complete the review. Schmeidler added that the Committee's role would be similar to the CoC process in providing guidance, advice and evaluation in an unbiased review process. The Committee debated whether it would be necessary to review one application. The Committee agreed to review any applications received by the Department to provide that unbiased review and advise the Homeless Service Advisory Committee on the quality of the project/application that is to be forwarded to HUD.

Mr. Schmeidler advised that the CoC report has to be complete 15 days before December 18 so that applicants can know how their project was prioritized and have time to comment. Schmeidler commented that the report must be ready by the HSAC meeting on December 19.

**Subject: Update | Southside Revitalization Project**

There was no update provided due to the absence of Reginald Johnson, Director of the Department of Community Development absence.

Chairman Langley announced that Mr. Johnson had been appointed the Director of the Department of Community Development by City Manager Thomas Bonfield.

**Subject: Update | James A. Whitted School Redevelopment Project**

Chairman Langley reported that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 25, 2012 and voted 5-to-2 to approve the list of capital priorities as presented which included allocating \$3 million in bond money toward the proposed renovations to the James A. Whitted School Redevelopment Project. Board members Natalie Beyer and Leigh Bordley voted no.

The Board of County Commissioners held a work session on Monday, November 5, 2012.

The Board of County Commissioners voted 5-to-0 to receive the update on the James A. Whitted School RFP and authorize staff to begin negotiations with Integral Development LLC, Forty AM, Belk Architecture, and the Durham Public Schools on the repurposing of the James A Whitted School and bring back an agreement to a Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

The Committee will receive updates from Lee Worsley, Deputy County Manager for Durham County Government.

**Subject: Update | Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant of the Durham Housing Authority**

Chairman Langley reported that the Durham Housing Authority (DHA) is one of seventeen communities across the U.S. to receive a Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant for \$300,000.

He explained that the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative promotes a comprehensive approach to transforming distressed areas of concentrated poverty into viable and sustainable mixed-income

neighborhoods. Building on the successes of HUD's HOPE VI Program, Choice Neighborhoods links housing improvements with necessary services for the people who live there - including schools, public transit and employment opportunities.

The planning process will buttress implementation efforts of the Livability Initiative, Gateway Plan, Trails and Greenways Plan, and the Fayetteville St. Historic Preservation Plan, bringing quality improvements to an underserved neighborhood. It will also foster increased community involvement in the local schools, improving performance and graduation rates, and adding early learning programs for young children. Shortfalls in community amenities such as parks, sidewalks and transportation will be identified and addressed. Further, the process will create a steering committee that fosters the collaboration that is needed to achieve a vision that serves everyone in the community.

Chairman Langley reported that DHA welcomed the request of the Committee to appoint a member to serve as liaison on behalf of the Committee in the redevelopment planning process. He asked whether the Committee wanted to appoint someone today or wait until DHA completes a schedule for meetings. The Committee decided to wait.

**Subject: Committee Concerns, Suggestions & Ideas**

Chairman Langley asked members of the Committee if there were any concerns, suggestions and/or ideas.

Committee Member Sutton expressed concern regarding the development of Umstead Street as it relates to the Whitted School Redevelopment Project. Secretary Johnson mentioned from recollection the Umstead Street cul-de-sac will reopen to meet Roxboro Street. Chairman Langley noted he would inquiry as to whether the Umstead Street cul-de-sac will reopen to meet Roxboro Street and report back to the Committee.

Committee Member Sutton also asked about the development of the surrounding dilapidated houses. Secretary Johnson mentioned from experience and knowledge of similar development projects revitalization of historic schools throughout the country, development tends to trickle to surrounding neighborhoods as investors and community development corporations rehabilitate and renovate buildings in the community.

**Subject: Announcements**

Chairman Langley announced the Committee would hold a regular meeting on Monday, December 17, 2012 at 6pm.

Mr. Schmeidler announced that the Department is sponsoring raffle support the City's 7 Stars Program, an annual giving campaign and asked interested members to see him after the meeting.

Vice Chairwoman Bullock announced that she will be out of town and will miss the Monday, December 17, 2012 meeting.

**Subject: Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
April Johnson, Secretary

*Minutes approved on December 17, 2012.*