

## Clearwater Alliance for Housing August 2, 2023

Thank you for your work for our city.

### **Where do you rank the housing problem in Clearwater today? What actions are you taking to resolve it?**

We leave you with a summary of the many questions our group has surfaced. We are here to help us improve housing for our family, employees and friends. It seems clear we need to increase our staff and increase funding to the non profit experts, moving faster on the many solutions needed.

- The Greenwood CRA is sitting with \$14 million approved that is just for affordable housing. What is the plan and who owns it? When will we start building? Do you get monthly or every other month updates?
- The Sustainability plan calls for 20% reduction in energy costs for low income housing by 2030. What is the plan and who owns the money for this? Where is it in the budget?
- How many ADU's are under permit this year? How many were built last year? How many applications were denied? And why? Who is working to simplify code and or zoning for tiny home and garage apartments in our community?
- When will Council recommend that **city council adopt an ordinance that requires every new residential development to include a percentage of affordable housing.? The new Seminole landing condo should be on this list.**
- Update the number of units opening by year. Be specific. Currently we have 4 buildings, 288 units to open in the next 2-4 years.
- Will you please chart the HUD housing in Clearwater, including the number of units and the expiration dates?
- Will we ever zone neighborhoods as historic? Let's confirm codes to make no exception to the local neighborhood.
- When will the Rehab process be simpler? How many homes were rehabbed last 3 years, by year, is there progress? What are the obstacles?
- Why is there carryover money in the housing budget?
- What are the opportunities with the new Florida law- The Live Local Act of 2023? The incentive for developers changes our current housing plans. Do we need staff to reach for the opportunity?
- White House announced 3.1 billion to aid communities in homelessness, including veterans, and shelter. What will we be asking for? Where is our plan for homelessness in Clearwater? Pinellas county ranks high in veterans homelessness.
- HUD May 3, 2023 released \$382 million through the nations HOUSING TRUST FUND (HTF) affordable housing production company. Florida received \$18,860,000.

*Ronald 9/10/23  
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How will we get our share? Don't we need additional staff to get our fair share? We could be funding existing non profits who manage shelter and workforce housing.

- The Live Local Act of 2023, just recently passed, opens new developer advantages for building affordable homes. What current staff will access that benefit? Do we need another part time support person to navigate all of these possibilities?
- Just because we have 217 openings out of 1900, does not mean we could not hire 3 more people that would love to roll up their sleeves and work for increased housing now.
- How many people will the \$300,000 for homelessness in Clearwater help? Yes, it is up over the \$250,000, but out of a general fund of \$199 million vs last year's \$184 million, shouldn't we be investing more carefully to help the non profits increase their shelter? They are the experts.
- One housing specialist for the housing budget is not enough. State and federal money is flowing, but we have to use it. Ask Chuck Lane what he needs.
- Why hasn't the rental assistance money for this year been distributed? What is the process to apply for rental assistance? Clearwater Housing Authority tenant based rental assistance. How do you become a housing choice voucher recipient? Eviction happens quickly, how do we keep people in their homes with the money we have budgeted?
- When will our website be more informative for housing needs and questions? Try it yourself.
- When will we add a staff member to assist in evictions? Hire an eviction specialist. Manage the money planned for rental assistance. Collaborate with the county and non profits that are doing it now, just need more help and space. 20,000 people were evicted in Pinellas County last year.
- When will we add a staff member to collaborate across all teams to improve housing permits, remove ADU obstacles, execute the team toolbox from the County, edit parking requirements and more?
- Where is the vacant land map that could be part of our housing plan? What is the call to action for this land over the next 3 years? Has it been inspected at our expense?
- Who are the developers that want to build smaller units, studios, duplexes, etc? What incentives do we give them for preliminary fees? Inspections? How do we educate new businesses? Is SPC a resource? Who can we meet with?
- What have you learned from the housing dashboard? What actions are you taking to improve housing in Clearwater for workforce and low income?
- We have a workforce crisis, job openings; perhaps it relates to no good affordable housing.
- With your new city salary at \$41,000, 1 brm apts start at 1250 a month in CHA listing. That would be just under 1/2 of your monthly gross salary.