

Inter-Office Communication
Housing & Community Development Division

#201114

DATE: April 20, 2021

TO: Marie Kessler, Deputy City Clerk

FROM: John Wachtel, Neighborhood Planning Coordinator

SUBJECT: Appointing a City Commissioner to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC)

As a follow up to our discussion, please include the appointment of a City Commissioner to the AHAC as part of your May 6, 2021 agenda item concerning Commission Committee Appointments. Typically, the City Commission appoints citizens to the AHAC for two-year terms.

Since 1992, the City of Gainesville has participated in the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program which provides Florida Cities and Counties with funds to promote and preserve affordable housing and homeownership. The SHIP Program is governed by Chapter 420, Part VII, of the Florida Statutes and is administered locally by the City's Housing and Community Development Division.

To receive SHIP funds, State statutes require the City Commission to establish an AHAC, and to appoint one of its members to the AHAC. In addition to regular AHAC membership duties, the Commissioner Committee Member must attend regional training workshops two times per year. These workshops are convened and administered under the State's Affordable Housing Catalyst Program.

AHAC's primary purpose is to review all the City's plans, policies, codes, regulations and procedures that impact the costs of housing, including the costs of developing and preserving housing. Based on that review, the AHAC is to develop and submit an annual Incentives and Recommendations Report (IRR, also referred to as the AHAC Report or the Incentives Report). The IRR includes recommendations that are intended to increase the City's supply of affordable housing.

Furthermore, the City Commission may assign other tasks to the AHAC. In the past, AHAC has evaluated requests for financial contributions from the City to Affordable Rental Housing Development Projects that apply for Low Income Housing Tax Credit or State Apartment Incentive Loan funding.

Please contact me if you have any questions.