

Bryant, Kristen

Subject: AHAC

Importance: High

From: Shayna Rich <shayna.rich@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, December 25, 2021 1:39 PM

To: Wachtel, John S. <wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org>; Arreola, David I <ArreolaDI@cityofgainesville.org>; Poe, Lauren B <POELB@cityofgainesville.org>; Saco, Reina E <SacoRE@cityofgainesville.org>; Ward, Harvey L <WardHL@cityofgainesville.org>

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to resign from the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. I have found that our involvement and comments are very strictly limited. The city staff does not allow us a full discussion of the issues surrounding affordable housing, despite our clear preference to allow a longer meeting that would be more meaningful to us and to the community. I have been very disappointed with the lack of input elicited from our citizen group, especially since we are a group of involved and educated people who are hoping to represent the broader community. Development is the most critical issue in the city of Gainesville, and the AHAC is intended to “ recommend monetary and nonmonetary local housing incentive strategies to be included in the local housing assistance plan. ”

Although this description does not limit itself to only the SHIP program, the meetings are not allowed to review and make recommendations about the full spectrum of strategies. Even more concerning, the report provided on our behalf is written in a highly insulting tone, appearing to assume that the audience is totally uneducated citizens who know nothing about development.

I would recommend the creation of a community committee including citizen involvement that could review issues around development and affordable housing, one that would be able to fulfill the role of AHAC and also review a wider set of regulations and strategies.

Respectfully,
Shayna Rich