



Legislation Text

File #: 200319., **Version:** 1

Appoint a City Commissioner to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (B)

To be consistent with recent change to State Law, this item requests the City Commission appoint one of its members to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC).

Since 1992, the City of Gainesville has participated in the State Housing Initiatives 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 Office of Housing and Community Development.

During the last legislative session, the State Legislature made several changes to the SHIP Program, including one that involves the composition of the AHAC. The City Commission is now required to appoint one of its members to the AHAC, by October 1, 2020. In addition to regular AHAC membership duties, the Commissioner Committee Member must attend regional training workshops two times per year. The workshops are convened and administered under the State's Affordable Housing Catalyst Program.

According to State statutes, the AHAC shall consist of 8 to 11 members. The AHAC must include one member of the City Commission and a citizen from at least six of the following categories: 1) home building industry; 2) banking or mortgage banking industry; 3) representative of labor in the home building industry; 4) an advocate for low-income persons; 5) a for-profit provider of affordable housing; 6) a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing; 7) a real estate professional; 8) a City plan board member; 9) a City resident; 10) a representative of employers; and 11) a representative of essential service personnel as defined in the City's Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP).

The 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 Incentives and Recommendations Report (IRR, also referred to as the AHAC Report or the Incentives Report). The IRR recommends specific actions or initiatives to encourage or facilitate affordable housing while protecting the ability of the property to appreciate in value. The City Commission then considers adopting the IRR strategy recommendations to include in the City's LHAP, which is required to be eligible for SHIP funds.

Furthermore, the AHAC may perform other duties at the request of the City Commission, including a) the provision of mentoring services to affordable housing partners including developers, banking institutions, employers, and others to identify available incentives, assist with applications for funding requests, and develop partnerships between various parties; and (b) the creation of best practices for the development of affordable housing in the community.

The Office of Housing and Community Development will provide staff support to the AHAC. To ensure an integrated approach to affordable housing, the AHAC shall also work cooperatively with other City

departments as needed.

None.

The City Commission appoint a City Commissioner to the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.