

County Executive
of
Howard County, Maryland

Executive Order: 2019-12
Dated: October 30, 2019
Subject: Creating the Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force

WHEREAS, a comprehensive master plan on housing needs has not been completed in over ten years; and

WHEREAS, multiple County studies, including the 2019 Transition Team Report, have echoed the need for a Housing Opportunities Master Plan (the “Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the Plan shall have a goal of identifying Howard County’s housing affordability issues and needs to offer holistic and sustainable strategies to address them and to provide metrics, including timelines, to measure progress toward achieving those goals; and

WHEREAS, the County has issued a Request for Proposals to hire a consultant to assist with the development of a Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County views the creation of the Plan as an integral part of the creation of the upcoming General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force shall be comprised of a diverse group of community members and stakeholders and consider the values of inclusiveness, equity, openness, transparency, accountability and responsibility in its work; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force is created.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force is charged with guiding the consultant to complete the following tasks:

- Completing a comprehensive inventory of housing programs and policies in all departments and agencies of local government, as well as those of community and human service organizations outside of local government;
- Identifying potential long-term, sustainable and consistent public and/or private financial strategies and sources of revenue to help build and preserve affordable housing opportunities;

- Identifying opportunities to more effectively utilize the County’s existing inclusionary zoning program, Moderate Income Housing Unit program (MIHU), to develop affordable rental and home ownership opportunities, especially in areas of the county where these opportunities are in critically low supply;
- Identifying best practices used in jurisdictions economically and demographically like Howard County that could be implemented to help preserve existing affordable rental housing stock in the County;
- Considering tax abatement and incentives to foster affordable housing creation by the Howard County Housing Commission (HCHC), the County’s housing authority, and private developers;
- Recommending opportunities to strengthen the County’s commitment to affordable housing such as use of public lands, reliance on LIHTC projects, increased use of subsidies such as the County’s Housing Stability Support Program and expansion of the “Live Where You Work” program;
- Identifying regulatory, legal, and other potential barriers that are restricting greater collaboration between HCHC and DHCD;
- Identifying how the County’s zoning can be changed to ensure all areas of the County include affordable rental housing and ownership opportunities;
- Identifying programs that can be implemented to incentivize private developers to partner with the County to create mechanisms that ensure the ongoing ability to develop affordable housing;
- Recommending potential changes to current policies and programs to address the shortage of affordable units for very low/low/moderate income households, including workforce housing; and
- Providing guidance to the County as to how it can coordinate the delivery of affordable housing resources and services to efficiently achieve the goals of the Plan.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force will provide a local understanding of the broader issues concerning the affordable housing needs and will promote public involvement during the development of the Plan and share information with their community groups and networks.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the following individuals are appointed to serve on the Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force:

1. Roger Barnes
2. Steve Breeden
3. Anne Brinker
4. Jennifer Broderick
5. Erica Byrne
6. Paul Casey
7. Ana Cisneros
8. Joan Driessen

9. Mavis Ellis
10. Victoria Hathaway
11. Dr. Caroline Harper
12. Kevin Kelehan
13. Brent Loveless
14. Leonardo McClarty
15. Bill McCormack
16. Brian McLaughlin
17. Maria Miller
18. David Nitkin
19. Cindy Parr
20. Paula Seabright
21. Pat Sylvester
22. Linda Wengel
23. Phyllis Zolotorow

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the following members will serve as advisors to the Task Force:

1. Jeff Bronow, Department of Planning and Zoning
2. Rose Burton, Office of Community Partnerships
3. Kelly Cimino, Department of Housing and Community Development
4. Jenna Crawley, Office on Aging and Independence
5. Carl DeLorenzo, Howard County Executive's Office
6. Kim Eisenreich, Office of the Local Children's Board
7. Yolanda Sonnier, Office of Human Rights
8. Larry Twele, Howard County Economic Development Authority
9. Peter Engel, Howard County Housing Commission

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force shall present its findings to the County Executive prior to January 31, 2021.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force shall cease to exist on March 31, 2021 and the terms of the Housing Opportunities Master Plan Task Force members shall expire on March 31, 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Calvin Ball, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 30th day of October, 2019.



Calvin Ball
County Executive

