



## October Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

### Public Policy Committee

With input from members, GNOHA updated its Short-term Rental Statement in preparation for the City Council vote on October 20<sup>th</sup>, which legalized Short-term Rentals to a certain extent. One of GNOHA's major suggestions was instituting a \$4 per person/per night fee on each short-term rental transaction that would go directly into the City's Neighborhood Housing Improvement Fund (NHIF). The City intends to hire a program manager, four inspectors, and two information technology specialists to identify properties and begin the registration process, issuing licenses in April 2017. City Council still has to craft the rules that the City Government will then enforce, but some [basic guidelines](#) have already been established. GNOHA has also been monitoring the Assessment of Fair Housing, which the City and HANO submitted on October 4<sup>th</sup>. New Orleans is one of the first cities in the country to submit an AFH.

### Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee did not meet in October, but plans to meet with Trina Henderson with St. John the Baptist Housing Authority to discuss homeownership options for their Section 8 and rental clients. The Committee is scheduled to meet with Tish Allen of Fannie Mae on November 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss HomeReady Mortgage, a new mortgage lending tool aimed at assisting potential homeowners.

### FAM Tour

GNOHA has partnered with the City of New Orleans to host the Familiarization (FAM) Tour. The FAM Tour takes graduates of the City's STRIVE program on a tour of New Orleans, showing off options for affordable rental and homeownership opportunities. The FAM Tour will take place on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Own the Crescent

OTC is continuing to drive the Third Line initiative, despite some setbacks. OTC is interviewing local musicians and performers who want to buy a home in New Orleans, and then creating material that will showcase the value of these culture bearers, as well as their need.

### Rental Committee

Members of the Committee have formulated an Energy Efficient Utility Allowance administrative plan and have met with HANO staff to go over the proposal—HANO staff were amenable to creating an EEUA Pilot program, and there will be a meeting between Committee members and the Director of HANO in coming weeks. Regarding the Project Based Voucher Site Based Waiting List procedure, GNOHA has submitted their comments to HANO, which currently has a legal team looking over the comments. Regarding the Rental Registry, a contractor has been selected to pursue the project, but it is currently stalled. The Louisiana Housing Corporation has released a QAP timeline for next year—they will not be releasing a Quality Housing Plan this year. Comments are open until November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 for the Clean Energy Incentive Program, which would provide incentives for energy efficiency in multifamily buildings. The Alliance for Affordable Energy and GNOHA both submitted comments. GNOHA also live tweeted the Louisiana Housing Corporation's Board Meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>.



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### Outreach and Advocacy Committee

The Outreach & Advocacy Committee developed a strategy to approach political candidates regarding their commitment to HousingNOLA goals, received responses from a number of candidates, and sent out a scorecard combining all responses to GNOHA members. Upcoming advocacy efforts include the rental registry, Inclusionary Zoning, HOME funds, and the Louisiana Housing Corporation. The City Council passed the motion to embark on a study of the Smart Housing Mix Ordinance, with the first public hearing taking place on November 8<sup>th</sup>. GNOHA and the Outreach and Advocacy Committee is also partnering with the LHA to do a listening tour around the state; an order of regions has been selected, and these events will begin taking place in early November.

### Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee and Volunteer Management Subcommittee collaborated to plan the Baton Rouge Housing Summit, which took place on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 70 people from Baton Rouge and New Orleans participated in the Summit, and GNOHA's Baton Rouge partner, the Mid City Redevelopment Alliance, is working on planning follow up meetings to continue the conversations that were begun at the Summit. Rebuilding Together New Orleans, a member of the Emergency Preparedness Committee and Volunteer Subcommittee, also traveled to Baton Rouge and provided crew leader training to Mid City Redevelopment Alliance workers.

### The Collaborative

Applications for the Louisiana Homebuyer Education Certification were submitted on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Each agency seeking certification submitted a full application and materials. Certification lasts for two years. There was a total of ten applications received this year. The applications have been reviewed to ensure all required documents were submitted. The Collaborative review team will meet on November 21<sup>st</sup> to review applications and schedule one-on-one meetings with each agency on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to address any questions applicants may have about the review team's decisions.

### Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Committee did not meet in October, but plans to meet in November to discuss the next steps in capacity building opportunities and adding these opportunities to the Capacity Building Calendar. The Committee has reached out to the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF), NeighborWorks, and the University of New Orleans Department of Urban Studies and Planning (UNO PLUS) to provide information about their capacity building opportunities.

### Lenders Roundtable

In October, NCRC hosted several calls to discuss the Bank Challenge, or how local banks around the City of New Orleans can better reach community members and invest in the communities where they're located. The Lenders Roundtable did not meet in October, but plans to meet later in November to discuss next steps with the NCRC Bank Challenge.



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### Nonprofit Roundtable

The Nonprofit Roundtable did not meet in October, but is currently discussing strategies to link referrals across non-profits and plans to meet in November.

### Road Home Liaison Group

As of November, 4 2016 the Road Home Liaison Group (RHLG) has relieved 421 (+60 from last month) applicants of their debt to the Road Home Program through compliance or establishing occupancy. An additional 103 (+17 from last report) files have been archived due to the death of the grant recipient. RHLG is proud to report that a total of 28 million dollars (5+ million dollars from last report) has been applied to Road Home recipients' cases to date. Of this \$822,663.55, has been closed on for construction. 13 homes have been funded for construction as the result of RHLG work (+0 from last month), 6 of which have been completed. 70+ projects remain in the pipeline for closing. RHLG also hosted an outreach event focused on homeowners in the 70117 zip code on November 12 from 10-3.

### HousingNOLA October Initiatives

#### ***Workforce Housing Council***

The Workforce Housing Partnership held a meeting to discuss how the New Orleans Business Alliance, Greater New Orleans, Inc., CPEX and RIDE can work with GNOHA to develop a workforce housing strategy which includes a study of the connections between workforce housing and transportation opportunities in the region. The study plan was revised and more key partners were identified and invited to join the partnership, including the Network for Economic Opportunity.

#### ***Inclusionary Housing Tiger Team***

The Inclusionary Housing Tiger Team is a group of housing and planning professionals in New Orleans that have been holding calls with HousingNOLA's consultant from Grounded Solutions Network, Sasha Hauswald. This team is tasked with determining the feasibility of implementing a mandatory Inclusionary Housing Policy in New Orleans. In October, the team participated in a call to review and discuss the current findings of a financial feasibility study and program design options. A motion for the Smart Housing Mix Ordinance Study was passed by City Council and the public hearing will be took place on November 8<sup>th</sup> at City Hall. Many HousingNOLA partners attended the hearing and spoke in favor of the study. The deadline to submit public comments is **January 3, 2017 at noon**. Comments can be emailed to [cpcinfo@nola.gov](mailto:cpcinfo@nola.gov) or mailed to

*City of New Orleans*

*City Planning Commission*

*1300 Perdido Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor*

*New Orleans, LA 70112*



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### ***Assessor Working Group***

The Assessor's Working Group met with the Assessor on 11/3/16. At the meeting, the group discussed tax relief initiatives for the elderly and low-income and multi-family valuations, as well as homestead exemptions for recipients of Road Home funding. The Assessor's office shared a strategy they are working on to account for Low Income Tax Credits for multifamily properties in the assessment process, which would provide a tax break to owners of such properties. The group will be following up with the Assessor to help move this initiative forward.

### ***Insurance Task Force***

The Insurance Task Force did not meet in October; however, it requested that the data received from the Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) be broken down by insurance company and zip code. The Task Force received the reconfigured data and has a meeting scheduled on November 7th to review the reconfigured data and to discuss the creation of a questionnaire to distribute to potential homeowners to educate them on the appropriate questions to ask when shopping for homeowner and flood insurance.

### ***Healthy Homes Initiative***

The Healthy Homes Initiative has been collecting resources on mold and dampness treatment, and exploring statewide initiatives.