

NORTHERN VIRGINIA AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE

ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT

Alexandria Housing Activities Update for July 2020

Tonight, July 20, 7 - 8:30 PM, "Community, Race and Policing," a town hall series hosted by Shared Voices, an emergent collaboration of community members, government and nonprofit organizations. The virtual town hall will take place online at zoom.us/j/94141682618 and facebook.com/ACTforAlexandria.

The goal of the town hall is to educate and engage Alexandrians in a dialogue about specific police reform ideas being discussed nationally and locally. Panelists will include Dr. Brian Williams, Associate Professor for Public Policy at the University of Virginia; and Burke Brownfield, criminal justice author, community review board expert and former Alexandria police officer. The panel will be moderated by Chris Lewis, member of ACT for Alexandria's Racial Equity Committee; and Matt Harris, chair of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission. Topics will include a historical perspective on policing and structural racism; definitions of commonly heard police reform concepts; and best practices in police community review boards. Moderators will take questions from the audience and share resources for more information.

The town hall is also an opportunity for the public to learn more about police community review boards given the [direction from the Alexandria City Council](#) that staff present a proposed ordinance at its September 8 meeting to establish such a board. The staff proposal will include a framework to establish the board and a process for public input before further action is taken.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Study: Current Rules, Feedback Report-Out Presentation and Online Feedback Opportunity As part of the City's community process to develop accessory dwelling unit (ADU) policy to help expand housing options, affordability and accessibility in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, a second presentation has been recorded and posted to the [project webpage](#). This presentation summarizes initial community feedback received, addresses questions and explains how the City's Zoning Ordinance currently regulates ADUs.

Community members are invited to view the presentation and provide feedback by August 10. Please weigh in on this important housing strategy for Alexandria!

- [Recorded presentation](#)
- [Online feedback form](#)

More information, including a link to the introductory presentation posted in April, can be found on the [project website](#). This site also provides additional information about ADU policies in neighboring jurisdictions, and an upcoming webinar hosted by Housing Virginia "[ADUs: The Next Little Thing in Affordable Housing](#)" on July 29.

Want to learn more about permanent supportive housing? Panelists from Pathway Homes, Fairfax County and Virginia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services gave an excellent [presentation](#) to NVAHA's [Leadership Council](#) on July 13 on the key elements to successfully provide permanent supportive housing for our neighbors with disabilities.

Upcoming Events: Governor Ralph Northam will convene a [Special Session of the Virginia General Assembly on August 18](#) to focus on the state budget after COVID-19 and address criminal and social justice reform. NVAHA has joined housing advocates across the Commonwealth to urge legislators to release the funds for the State Housing Trust Fund and Permanent Supportive Housing approved for the biennium budget pre-COVID. This pandemic has revealed the legacy of racist land use policies, and the disproportionate impacts on Black and Brown residents. If legislators are serious about social justice reform they will approve this investment in housing now.

July 26 Eviction proceedings for non-payment of rent can begin. Attorney General Mark Herring [issued an opinion](#) on July 14 regarding various protections for those facing possible eviction, but residents are reporting that eviction notices are being delivered now.

July 31 Last day for CARES Act unemployment benefits to qualified COVID-impacted residents.