

NORTHERN VIRGINIA AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE

ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT

Fairfax County Housing Activities Update July 2020

BOS Land Use Policy Committee Meeting, July 21, 2:30 PM The [agenda](#) includes a [presentation](#) on the Zoning Ordinance Modernization (zMOD) and an [update](#) on the Zoning Ordinance Amendment Workplan. All committee meetings in Conference Room 11 are televised on Channel 16, [streamed live online](#) and available to [view on demand](#) following the meeting.

Items of interest:

- **Accessory Dwelling Units** have been renamed "**Accessory Living Units**" (see slide #8 of the zMOD presentation)
- **Affordable Housing Initiatives (NEW)** – Consider zoning changes to support new affordable housing initiatives and land use policies, including changes identified by the 50+ Plan for older adults. (Board/Staff and Carry over from 2018 Initiative 8C). This item is listed on the Workplan and can be found on p.9 of attachment #2 of the [handout](#). **What does this mean?** Hopefully that new strategies and land use policies to meet and exceed the minimum goal of 5,000 affordable homes over 15 years are underway. Even though funding for the Housing Trust Fund is on hold, new land use and zoning policy work must continue to move forward. We see progress in the recommendations of new policies for the Workforce Dwelling Units that the Board voted to move to the next phase of the Comp Plan amendment process at their last meeting; and the coming announcement of a Work Group to examine and recommend preservation strategies that include the mobile home parks on Richmond Highway in the Mt. Vernon and Lee Districts. We will be watching this space.

Task Force on Equity and Opportunity The Board of Supervisors announced the creation of this Task Force after an unwarranted police use of force incident against a black man in distress in early June. Shortly after that announcement, NVAHA surveyed organizations and activists engaged in housing work in the County to collect their thoughts about the Task Force - who should serve as a Task Force member, what issues should be discussed, will the Task Force identify outcomes to be achieved, and how will they be measured? These recommendations were compiled into a one page [infographic](#) (Spanish [translation](#)) and sent to the Board of Supervisors. We urge the Board to direct the Task Force to comprehensively examine all the systems, policies and practices that discriminate against low income Black and brown residents; to go beyond criminal justice reform and look at land use, zoning, access to transit and affordable health care.

While no further announcement has been made regarding the Task Force since its announcement, we will be following this initiative and will share any updates or announcements.

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 elements that are critical 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.