



A summary of Fairfax County and statewide affordable housing initiatives, program developments and advocacy opportunities for housing and community development supporters

Manufactured Housing Task Force. The first meeting of this task force, convened to bring residents and owners of mobile home parks together with human service providers, advocates and county agencies, got off to a very poor start at the first meeting on September 27. Following a recommendation adopted in March by the Board of Supervisors (BOS), the Task Force was created to develop a better understanding of the social and income characteristics of residents living in mobile home communities, and acknowledge the important role they play in providing unsubsidized affordable housing in the county. Current policies at the state and county level governing park communities and providing protections for residents are inadequate for this valuable housing stock. Approximately 1,700 households, almost exclusively Latino residents, live in mobile home parks along the Route 1 corridor. But the first task force meeting was ill-prepared for Latino participation, convening without providing meeting materials in Spanish or a Spanish language translator to assist resident task force members with participation.

The next meeting is scheduled for October. We urge the county to set up a Manufactured Housing Task Force page on the HDC website (currently there is no information online) to provide transparency regarding Task Force membership, meeting times, agenda and materials to be used in both Spanish and English. Examples of this bi-lingual approach from neighboring jurisdictions can be found [here](#). **It is our hope that the county will engage mobile home residents to develop more thoughtful and culturally sensitive preparation for the next meeting.**

Fairfax County Public Library will host a virtual book discussion with Richard Rothstein, author of *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*, on **October 6, 7:00-8:00 pm**. [Advance registration is required](#). Prior reading of the book is not necessary, but we highly recommend it. This short video, [Segregated By Design](#), provides a framework for the discussion of Mr.

Rothstein's book. For additional materials on this subject, review our webpage on [Housing and Equity](#).

BOS Meeting Oct 5, 9:30 Board Auditorium, Government Center The Board will discuss the [FY2021 Carryover Review](#) to amend the appropriation level of the revised FY2022 Budget Plan. The draft review provides \$5 million for affordable housing investments and \$122,000 to support a full time Affordable Housing Preservation coordinator per the recommendations of the Preservation Task Force last spring. The review notes that an additional \$15 million will be allocated to the Housing Trust Fund when the county receives their second tranche of ARPA funds. Last month, the county announced their [request for proposals](#) to develop and preserve multifamily affordable housing with the support of \$18.7 million in housing trust fund dollars.

To support the county's Emergency Rental Assistance program, a total of 9 new positions are included in the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. These ERA I federal funds, assist households who are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The county has experienced serious challenges qualifying and processing applications for residents in a timely manner. (The landlord portal works well, but individual residents can only access assistance by phone) These positions will address gaps in technical assistance, community outreach, and eviction prevention oversight as well as ensuring adherence to program guidelines. Due to the critical need to process applications and provide assistance to residents as quickly as possible, NCS will immediately move forward with the creation and recruitment of these positions unless otherwise directed by the Board.

BOS Legislative Committee The Legislative Committee met on September 21 to discuss the County's extensive [2022 Draft Legislative Program](#). The legislative program identifies the county's priority requests for new legislation from the General Assembly, modification of existing laws, and increased funding for specific needs. We note that the current draft makes no mention of needed state programs and funding for affordable housing. Advocates should urge the committee to include language that provides a dedicated source of revenue and increases the state housing trust fund. Other housing priorities highlighted by our statewide housing partners should be included as well. The schedule of subsequent meetings (including a public comment session on November 9) can be found [here](#).

Fair Housing Forum Neighboring Loudoun County is conducting a [virtual Fair Housing Forum](#) on **Oct 6, 6:30 - 8 PM** as part of the work to develop a [regional fair housing plan](#) coordinated by the **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**. While the focus is on Loudoun, the presentation will include an overview of fair housing, discrimination in housing and barriers to housing for persons with disabilities. Register [here](#) for the link to this free event.