



Legislation Text

File #: 17-511, **Version:** 1

TITLE:

Follow-up report from the Affordable Housing Advisory Commission on a Citizen Housing Request

PURPOSE: The purpose of this item is for the Board to receive a report/recommendation from the AHAC on a request from a citizen

DEPARTMENT: Economic and Community Development

CONTACT INFORMATION: Annette Lafferty, Economic and Community Development Director
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INFORMATION: The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee meet on March 21, 2018 and discussed Horace Lambert request to the Board of Aldermen for ways that the Town could assist Mr. Lambert and his partner Sally White with their housing request. Mr. Lambert has been able to secure approval for a HUD program that allows for 70% of a mortgage to be covered by HUD. Mr. Lambert was seeking use of town-owned property to build a handicap accessible home. His proposal included deeding the structure back to the town after both he and Ms. White's death. The Chairman appointed a sub-committee of Terri Buckner, Amy Singleton and Tyran Hill to meet with Mr. Lambert and Ms. White.

During the subcommittee's meeting with Mr. Lambert and Ms. White they discussed his and Ms. White's current living situation and their desire to relocate within the next 12 to 18 months or as soon as possible. They have applied and been approved for HUD Homeownership Program through the Orange County Housing and Community Development office and are asking the Town consider leasing property for them to build a new single family house. It was noted that they are also open to rental housing or retro-fitting existing housing. They stated their need to move was based on the lack of handicap accessibility of their current unit.

After meeting with Mr. Lambert and Ms. White the subcommittee made the following recommendation back to the AHAC.

The committee does not recommend moving forward with the Lambert/White request to build a single-family home on town-owned property due to the following reasons;

- 1) Building a single family home on limited town-owned property would not be the best use of town resources and meet the goal of creating affordable housing. Furthermore, creating a process that addresses the multi-tiered logistical, legal, and administrative questions would be lengthy and work against the Lambert-White need to relocate within the 12 to 18 month timeframe.
- 2) If the Town is going to build housing on town-owned property, it should be multi-family and the Town should reach out to community non-profits as partners in development and management of housing. Also, there should be a process for people to apply for any housing the town develops.
- 3) The committee suggested that the Town could better serve Mr. Lambert and Ms. White in other ways, for

example, connecting them with non-profit housing providers and assisting them with getting on waiting list for other affordable housing projects, i.e. CASA

During the April 18, 2018 meeting of the AHAC the Commission heard the report from the subcommittee and unanimously voted to forward the recommendation to the Board of Aldermen.

FISCAL & STAFF IMPACT: This report has no fiscal impacts at this time. There may be staff time involved with follow-up and connecting with available services.

RECOMMENDATION: Consider the recommendation of the AHAC.