



LAUDERTRAC

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE FORT LAUDERDALE

Tracking Progress on Commission Priorities for 2020



December 2020

BUILDING A BRIDGE THROUGH HELP, HOUSING AND HOPE



Affordable Housing Policy Progress

The collaborative efforts of City departments have made progress in multiple ways toward addressing Homelessness and Housing Opportunities throughout the 2020 year. Listed are some of the most significant outcomes of this year.

In mid-2018, the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) was tasked with developing an affordable housing policy. The goal was to encourage the inclusion of affordable housing in residential and mixed-use development projects by way of providing development incentives (such as additional height and density as well as through the allocation of residential flex units). Since the initiative's inception, DSD has conducted significant research, met with the City's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC), presented ideas and received feedback during City Commission workshops and conference meetings, and engaged community stakeholders. A draft policy has been developed that provides a path to add affordable housing units within the City's Unified Flex Zone, Regional Activity Centers (RACs), and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) corridors to those whose household income is between 60% and 120% of the median family income for Broward County. Staff is in the process of presenting the draft policy to various stakeholders and intends to bring the policy before the Planning and Zoning Board and the City Commission in 2021.

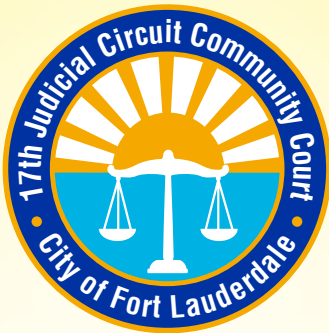
To further promote affordable workforce housing, multiple projects were approved in 2020. In the central neighborhood of Flagler Village, 100 affordable housing units are currently under construction. Other central and southern region neighborhoods will have an additional 231 units once construction begins. The Housing and Community Development Division (HCD) and the Community Redevelopment Agency together fulfilled an additional 37 units in the northwest neighborhood of River Gardens/Sweeting Estate. Partnering with the Fort Lauderdale Community Development Corporation (CDC) for property located at 1425 Northwest 3rd Street in the Dorsey Riverbend neighborhood, a property was repurposed to provide a new affordable home with energy efficiency objectives. The home was completed with solar panels and other energy saving technology to relieve future homeowner concerns of rising utility costs (estimated reduction of \$100 per month) while decreasing the carbon footprint of the community. This project is one of many to come to Fort Lauderdale in the upcoming years.

Listed below is a summary of ongoing Housing Projects reviewed by the Development Review Committee:

Project Name	Address	Affordable Housing Units	Status	City Incentive	City Commission District
Poinciana Crossing	1801 S.W. 1 Avenue	113	Approved June 15, 2020	City transferred 2.3 acres to the Housing Authority for the project	4
The Adderley (F.K.A. West Village)	501 N.W. 7 Avenue	46	Approved April 19, 2020	Affordable housing height bonus	3
Seven on Seventh	920 N.W. 7 Avenue	72	Under DRC Review	Affordable housing height bonus	2
Village View	640 N. Andrews Avenue	100	Approved October 30, 2019 Under Construction	Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing and Urban Development)	2

In response to additional housing needs during the Coronavirus Pandemic, many CARES Act / Coronavirus Relief fund programs prevented homelessness by providing support to over 560 households facing economic hardships. HCD administered ongoing programs such as Rent and Mortgage Utility Assistance, Short Term Mortgage Utility Assistance, and Tenant Based Rental Assistance which offered multiple months of rent, mortgage and utility payments in the amount of approximately \$1.2 million to date. Completed programs such as the Hotel Voucher and Meals program and the Broward Housing Facility Based Housing Cost program assisted households in the amount of over \$682,000. Other non-CARES Act programs and services continue to collaborate with community partners.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 affecting daily outreach locations, the Police Department's Homeless Outreach Unit Specialists continue to provide outreach services. Support includes assisting individuals with detox at Barc (Broward Alcohol Recovery Center) as well as Mental health services at Henderson Mental health CRS (Crisis Receiving System). In addition, the Reunification Program has successfully assisted 50 individuals to date. These participants have either obtained a new job or have been reunited with families. Other achievements in partnership with the City Manager Office Divisions include assisting with hotel vouchers, food donations, as well as ongoing support of Community Court.



The Broward Clerk of Court reported 35 new Community Court cases and a total of 182 hearings in 2020.

Support through Community Court

Community Court continues to be successful in providing an innovative approach to rehabilitating individuals experiencing homelessness who are charged with low-level, quality-of-life offenses and municipal ordinance violations. During the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, services were focused on those who were currently or previously a part of the Community Court network. However, Neighbor Support (with support from other City departments) mitigated the risk of infection by transitioning Community Court to an open-air virtual platform at Holiday Park in September 2020 for individuals with a "Notice to Appear" only. Utilizing technology like Zoom and mobile devices, participants receive the necessary support and resources to complete the program.

A total of 11 participants have successfully graduated from the program with a combined 60 required community service hours completed in 2020. Through community support, more than 744 support goods and services were provided onsite to clients and walk-ins including showers, meals, clothing, hygiene and haircuts. The program has additionally documented approximately 200 referrals to other services including housing, food, and related benefits, as well as mental health and substance abuse treatment providers.

The City collaborated with United Way of Broward County to administer short and/or medium-term direct housing assistance and other supportive services through various non-profit organizations. For fiscal year 2020 the City appropriated \$750,000 for United Way of Broward County to fund the Salvation Army, Showering Love which provides mobile showers to the homeless at Community Court, Broward Housing Solutions, Memorial Healthcare and Hope South Florida. Their services include case management, rapid rehousing, employment training, linkages to medical and legal services, meal sharing, day respite services, and utilities assistance.

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CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

24-hour Neighbor Call Center: 954-828-8000

Website: www.fortlauderdale.gov

Email Updates: www.fortlauderdale.gov/enews

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale

Twitter: www.twitter.com/FTLCityNews

YouTube: www.youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale

Nextdoor: www.nextdoor.com