City of Hudson Housing Task Force

Mission Statement:

Identify opportunities to support the revitalization of the local housing market by providing assistance and support to local and regional partners to provide quality, affordable options for both prospective home buyers and renters across the income spectrum.

Goals and Objectives:

On the heels of the Columbia County Housing Needs Assessment and the award of the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) a Housing Task Force was formed. The housing needs assessment, completed in September 2017, was conducted to analyze the existing and proposed housing supply and future housing needs in the city and surrounding areas. The report focused on developing housing strategies and recommendation and also provided supporting documentation for future funding. The housing needs assessment included a number of action steps and potential resources to assist in achieving these goals. The needs assessment resulted in the following recommendations in order to address the areas future housing needs:

1. Preserve the city of Hudson and Columbia County's existing single-family housing stock
2. Enhance housing and amenities in downtown Hudson and the other villages and towns throughout Columbia County
3. Improve building code enforcement within the city of Hudson and other areas of Columbia County
4. Create additional, good quality mixed-income housing in the Hudson area

The housing task force recognizes the importance and the timing of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative community engagement and planning process. To that end, the task force will endeavor to incorporate both the goals of the housing needs assessment and additional housing goals in the DRI process. Additionally, the task force will prioritize the recommendations from the housing needs assessment and provide additional strategies and action steps. The task force further recognizes issues related to sustaining jobs, creating a higher standard of living, improving access to public transportation, and strengthening the overall community. Lastly, the task force seeks to identify and leverage additional private, state and federal funding to maximize the impact of resources and ensure sustainable community and economic development in the city.

Overall, the housing task force aims to help guide and educate the community on the importance of housing for all income levels, assist in prioritizing strategies and action steps and guide future policy and incentives to support the development of housing in the city. The overall desired outcome of the housing task force is to create a collection of recommendations, action steps, policies, programs, and initiatives toward the goals listed above. Through a combination of new construction and preservation, while harnessing the market rather than stifling it. The task force acknowledges these recommendations will not eliminate all housing affordability challenges; they will make a significant and positive impact in the quality of life.

Housing Task Force Roles and Responsibilities

1. Review materials provided by and be prepared for each task force meeting
2. Commit to attending all scheduled meetings
3. Participate in discussions and activities
4. When a decision requires a vote of the task force, each member shall have one vote
5. Represent their organizations and the community's interests and sharing this information with the task force to foster a clear understand of the community
6. Follow the Ground Rules

Task Force Ground Rules

The Housing Task Force will be conducted based on a set of ground rules that form the basis for the respectful interaction of all parties involved in this process. These ground rules will not be considered final until they are agreed upon by the Task Force membership.

1. Members shall attend scheduled meetings with an open mind
2. Members shall listen actively and participate honestly
3. Members shall be courteous and treat each other with respect and dignity
4. Input from all members in the process is valued and considered
5. Members shall Help the group achieve desired outcomes
6. Stay focused on the topic on hand
7. Raise any issues or concerns
8. Be brief and concise
9. No personal attacks
10. No grandstanding
11. Only one person will speak at a time and wait for others to finish speaking
12. Speak for yourself
13. Stay open minded to new ideas
14. Suspend Judgment
15. Constructively criticize ideas and offer alternatives - DO NOT criticize people
16. Meetings will begin and end on time

A Team Approach:

The Housing Task Force is charged with the responsibility of examining current conditions, conducting an interactive process and will ultimately offer recommendations on housing programs, development and policy. This is a multidisciplinary task force which requires a level of trust among members built through collaborative work. It is vital for individual members to be keenly aware of each other's experience, strengths and weaknesses. The conversations may touch upon personal beliefs and values; however, it is critical to keep an open mind. At times, statistics, concepts and ideas may be discussed and it is vital that the media has a single point of contact, which is the chairperson of the task force. Inaccurate perceptions are not constructive and often lead to misinterpretation and hinder members from drawing upon the expertise or skills that may be of great assistance.

Metrics of Success of the Housing Task Force:

- Neighborhoods have a mix of safe, quality, and affordable housing for individuals and families to rent or own

- Design and implementation of programs and policies in order to return underutilized, foreclosed, and abandoned homes to the housing market

- The city and partner agencies respond to substandard housing in a coordinated fashion to ensure residents are living in safe, quality, and affordable housing for a higher quality of life

- Additional measures of success may include:

    o Increase in a mixture of housing options and diversity with all neighborhoods

    o Increase in market value