**Montgomery County Housing Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, July 10, 2023 3:30 – 5:00 pm via Zoom [link](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89963357018?pwd=TkRRcmVoczh1V0VkQS9XdEU1a1Fhdz09&from=addon).

**Present**: Larry Bram, John Bogasky, Sarah Basehart, Jillian Copeland, Sharon Cichy, Diana Eisenstat, Rick Callahan, Rebecca Grayson, Rosemary DiPietro, Sabria Still, Diane Dressler, Tim Wiens, Sharonda Huffman, Lauren Silverstone, Andy Krauss, Terri Bradford, Tierra Medley

1. Welcome and Introduction
   1. Sharonda welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Review of minutes from May 17, 2023
   1. The minutes were reviewed.
3. Diane Eisenstat, from Senator Van Hollen’s Office
   1. Works in constituent office which includes housing and other community services.
   2. She is unsure of the Senator’s position on the VITAL act. She plans to ask and get back to us with it.

4. Report Meeting with Councilmember Andrew Friedson - Jillian Copeland and Tim Wiens

* 1. Mr. Friedson is a great supporter of people with disabilities. He is vice president of the County Council and chairs the housing, planning and parks committee.
  2. He is supportive of the MIH model of partnering with developers and supportive of trying to help us find ways to make it happen.
  3. He is willing to help MIH as they work with the Moore administration financially -[ prr43and programmatically to make that happen.
  4. He encouraged us to be bold and think big when we go into meetings.

1. The VITAL Act; Jillian Copeland
   1. Is the driving force that is needed to incentivize developers to make more accessible housing and more affordable housing. It encourages doing it near transit so that people with disabilities have the means to get around and interact with their community.
   2. Want to increase the funding for both 4 and 9% tax credits. It also requests $150,000 for resource centers.
   3. Sharon will distribute the drafted templates for those that want to reach out to support this act with Sharonda who will forward to the committee.
   4. Chelsea commented that the Vital act will help set a precedent when it comes to issues like accessibility that could filter down to the State.
   5. Housing Design [standards for accessibility and inclusion](https://thekelsey.org/design/).
   6. U.S. Access Board Town Hall Meeting July 25, 2023 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. (ET) In-Person Attendance Information National Federation of the Blind National Headquarters 200 East Wells Street , Baltimore, MD 21230 Registration: Email full name and organization to [events@access-board.gov](mailto:events@access-board.gov) Virtual Attendance Information (listen-only) Zoom Livestream Link: www.zoomgov.com/j/1616172171 Meeting ID: 161 617 2171 Passcode: 067497
2. Updates regarding MDOD and DDA
   1. DDA Rent subsidy – they are working on getting things going now that the MOU has been signed. They have a tenant selection plan.
      1. June 29 there was a webinar for housing support specialists.
   2. MDOD – working on leasing these HUD811 Ellicott Gardens II and Brock Bridge Landing
   3. Train the Trainer 101 course will be offered a one-day session sometime in September in person. They plan to offer a session virtually in the winter also.
   4. Housing Support Services training will now occur over 5 sessions. The fifth session will be on assisting people with budgeting and bill paying.
      1. Existing housing support specialists will have access to a training module for budgeting and bill paying.
   5. DDA is discussing if paying bills is reimbursable under housing support services. No decision has been made.
3. HOC
   1. HOC is doing their strategic plan and they’ve sent it out to all residents and staff. Give [your ideas](https://www.hocmc.org/extra/1094-strategic-plan.html) on what should be in the strategic plan.
   2. You can [apply](https://www.hocmc.org/rental-programs/housing-path.html) at any time. The waitlist is long; probably about 6 years.
   3. Note: some housing authorities allow you to port your voucher immediately so you can apply in other counties.
4. Open Forum
   1. FY24, FY25 Legislative Priorities.
      1. We are looking at FY25. Since rental subsidy program is just getting started, we should figure out how much we want them to put in the FY25 budget.
         1. Diane recommends that we take a look at our numbers and recalculate them as the rental market is very tight. She doesn’t want to aim too high or too low.
         2. Chelsea can provide numbers of people on the waiting list at future meetings. There are currently 382 individuals on the list. A committee member also asked to get the number of people that yes of those that were contacted. MIH can help with advocacy to help grow the program.
         3. Now is the time to encourage DDA to put this in their budget to start with. Adding legislative support also.
      2. We should support the efforts of MAHC for funding rental housing works.
      3. Third party payment systems for some private landlords are charging outrageous fees. The building gets to subdivide the utility bills among all the units since they don’t want to meter each unit. Tenants can’t affect their utility bill by turning down their thermostat. Tenants can’t pick a different cable provider if their building has a contract with a particular cable provider.
         1. Note: Prince George’s County won a settlement on behalf of Maryland residents with Conservice with the fees they charge for processing utilities.
         2. Tenants can’t use the low-income water program if they pay by third party.
   2. EID program - let’s someone make more money. John B may research this and share it with the committee. ABLE accounts help with assets also.
5. MIH website
   1. Check out the new [trainings section](https://mih-inc.org/trainings-overview/) on our website.
6. Next meeting (In Person or Virtual)
   1. Wednesday September 13, 2023 from 3:00-4:30 pm