



Baltimore City Housing Committee  
Minutes  
Friday October 15<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 2:30  
Zoom

**Present:** Delegate Stephanie Smith, Kristina Logan, Lauren Kallins, Conor Creaney, Hugh Scoggins, Zelma Ortiz, Diane Dressler, Michael Bullis, Tim Wiens, Lauren Silverstone, Terri Bradford

1. Welcome & Introductions
  
2. Planning for new affordable housing in Baltimore City
  - a. Challenges and Opportunities
  
  - b. How people with Disabilities can benefit

**Delegate Stephanie Smith**

Permanent Balt City Housing commission director has been selected (Alice Kennedy). Delegate Smith serves on the Board at the Maryland School for the Blind. Due to census results, counties must update their Comprehensive Plan. ARPA funds can help fund projects that are currently in the pipeline or new projects.

Express Treasury money needs to be spent. There are internal discussions about how to get the funds to the people. 2/3 to ¾ of the funds are earmarked for DPW, etc. The remaining has to be split between the remaining areas (housing, parks & rec, etc).

Voucher list – is currently closed. Delegate Smith has no information on when it will open. Janet Abramson would be someone to follow up with about this.

Inclusionary Housing board has been reestablished after being not in use for several years. Public comment on revising the law is open through the end of the month.



When people need housing, they often need other resources as well. The state/city/county doesn't want to pay for groups to provide other resources to assist folks in finding & obtaining housing.

Offered these names when asked for collaboration suggestions: Affordable housing trust fund people, MD community development network, Jews United for Justice, Carol Ott (Tenant Advocacy Director for the Fair Housing Action Center of Maryland), Maryland Communities United (issues of affordable housing, community land trust development). [Baltimoreplanningacademy.com](http://Baltimoreplanningacademy.com) – group run by Delegate Smith and it's people who want to understand land use development.

Delegate Smith discussed the importance of incorporating universal design into newly designed housing.

Delegate Smith recommended reaching out the ARPA office (Shamiah Kerney [Shamiah.Kerney@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Shamiah.Kerney@baltimorecity.gov)) to discuss having people who have expertise in universal design, etc.

Draft interim report for inclusionary housing public comments due 10/26. Go to: [Baltimoreplanning.konveio.com/dhcinterimreport\\_ih](http://Baltimoreplanning.konveio.com/dhcinterimreport_ih)

Example of historic preservation tax credits are being used in Henderson Crossing in East Baltimore: project in Del Smith's neighborhood. Narrow homes have been combined, with a bedroom on the first floor and utilizes the tax credit which only charges 10% of the value for 10 years. This could be a possibility to make historic homes accessible for people with disabilities.

Passage of laws prohibiting source of income discrimination and voucher system are two things that have helped renters tremendously.

Tim asked Del Smith to provide him with an email of introduction to Alice Kennedy so that he can talk with her about housing. She readily agreed.

Del Smith recommended reaching out to Senator Antonio Hayes (Balt City) as a good person to talk to about IDD issues. He sits on the financial services committee.



The office of equity and civil rights can provide training to housing coordinators about the new laws. Community relations commission 410-396-3143 or [CRCIntake@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:CRCIntake@baltimorecity.gov) Zelma Ortiz is a compliance officer II [zelma.ortiz@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:zelma.ortiz@baltimorecity.gov) 410-396-3142

Del Smith is on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook: @smith4delegate

Committee Discussion on topic of accessibility: modular homes were put forth as an affordable way to affordably build accessible homes. Balt county has a small pool of money to modify homes for aging in place. Balt City has areas of townhouses that are empty that could be rehabbed but when developers approach the city there is so red tape that gets in the way.

3. Follow-up on goals from July meeting
  - a. Money Follows the Person – many of the CILs did not receive funds.
  
4. Talk about next steps.
  - a. Next meeting
    - a. Monday December 6 at 3:00 pm (unless our guest does not have availability)
  
    - b. Meeting Invitation suggestions:
      - a. Alice Kennedy