

T.H. Observations as I leave the Housing Committee

19 November 2008

The Role of the City

The Market can not reach the VLI and even many of the working families, and will not reach many persons with disabilities.

The City has a mission of providing and assisting those families.

Somewhere in-between are the not-for-profit housing and services providers, and they must play vital roles in the development and preservation of affordable housing.

City Issues

Produce a coherent, comprehensive strategy and annual production goals; include “green” building standards to the extent state law permits.

Achieve sound housing policy in zoning re-write & neighborhood plans

Integrate CDA efforts into City strategy

Interact with non-profits more effectively

Coordinate Economic Development and affordable housing activities

Coordinate Transportation planning & operations to achieve more affordable housing

Increase City, County, and federal \$\$ resources for activities & staffing

Reform Property Taxation for income-qualified renters.

Develop reliable data bases on which to plan housing strategies.

Finally, the health & economic well being of our neighborhoods results from good design and a variety of experiences and infrastructure that supports them: businesses, housing, transportation, our schools & civic places.

The current economic downturn will increase the need for City activities to address homelessness, fore-closures & evictions, housing stock preservation, and an increasing need to produce more dwelling units as population growth continues. This is not the time to cut funding or staffing.

This community's commitment to helping residents achieve decent, safe, and affordable housing is a discussion we have yet to have.