

Draft Resolution for HHSAB

WHEREAS, the Community Services Area Administrator has had discussions with current and former City Council liaisons Chris Watson and Linh Song on the topic of dissolving the Housing & Human Services Advisory Body, and;

WHEREAS Councilmember Watson and former Councilmember Song have both expressed support for the dissolution of the HHSAB, and;

WHEREAS, the function of the HHSAB is an advisory body, with any and all recommendations requiring approval from the City Council to become actionable, and;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the HHSAB as stated in its bylaws are “to make recommendations to the City Council, City Administration, and the Office of Community & Economic Development regarding policies and programs to address the housing and human services needs of low income residents of the City of Ann Arbor,” and;

WHEREAS, the HHSAB was created in 2007 as a consolidation of two (2) other City bodies - Ann Arbor’s CDBG Executive Committee and the Ann Arbor Housing Policy Board – and a third body with overlapping functions, the City’s Waiver and Review Board, was eliminated two years later in 2009 when Ann Arbor formally joined the Washtenaw Urban County; and

WHEREAS, the HHSAB and its predecessor boards previously performed a role of soliciting funding priorities for Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) and the Consolidated Plan to HUD, but since 2009 these functions are the responsibility of the Washtenaw Urban County Executive Committee with the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) serving as the lead agency for the Washtenaw Urban County; and

WHEREAS, as Ann Arbor represents only 1 of the 21 local units of government participating in the Washtenaw Urban County, the HHSAB does not currently serve a critical function as it relates to Urban County funding and countwide prioritization of those dollars; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of approximately 18 million dollars being paid into the Ann Arbor Affordable Housing Fund (AAAHF) through in-lieu developer funds for 3 or 4 projects to be completed over the next 1 to 3 years, HHSAB members performed a comprehensive review of existing AAAHF policies resulting in recommended policy revisions that were approved by City Council (R-24-252) on June 18, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a central function of the HHSAB is that of making funding recommendations to City Council for AAAHF awards at or above \$75,000, based on rolling applications and competitive Requests for Proposals; and

WHEREAS, Ann Arbor residents’ passage of Proposition C in 2020 to establish a 20-year affordable housing millage aimed at expanding the availability of permanently affordable housing units for those at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income; and

WHEREAS, in June 2023, City Council passed Resolution R-23-207 to approve the Ann Arbor Affordable Housing Millage Fund Grant Agreement between the City of Ann Arbor, the Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC), and the Ann Arbor Housing Development Corporation (AAHDC) with a primary goal of reducing duplicative processes and cost for AAHC and AAHDC's to create City owned and operated affordable housing units; and

WHEREAS, more practical and cost-effective financing of new affordable housing developments in Ann Arbor is achievable by moving the administration of the AAAHF from the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development to the Ann Arbor Housing Development Corporation, to streamline the City's ability to leverage the AAAHF and affordable housing millage dollars for the financing of new affordable housing projects led by the City or other qualified affordable housing developers; and

WHEREAS, mechanisms for meaningful citizen input on Ann Arbor's housing and human service needs are plentiful through a number of other boards and committees such as the Ann Arbor Renters Commission, Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission (AAHC), Washtenaw County Community Action Board, Washtenaw County Continuum of Care, Washtenaw Urban County Executive Committee, and Ann Arbor's Housing Commission; and

WHEREAS, all of the aforementioned entities are public meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act, thus allowing opportunity for regular citizen participation through public comment, and some of these entities have current or upcoming openings that HHSAB members could potentially apply for;

RESOLVED, That the members of the Ann Arbor Housing & Human Services Advisory Body (HHSAB) acknowledge and support the recommendation from staff to ask City Council to take necessary action at their convenience to dissolve the HHSAB at a future 2025 Council meeting.