

Dear CAJM Affordable Housing partisans – We’ve had a lot going on recently. We thought it would be useful to bring you up to date prior to the Celebration on May 14 and the big Blueprint Board meeting on May 16 where the fate of our efforts will be decided.

CAJM Affordable Housing Strategy Team members made presentations this past week at meetings of the two Blueprint advisory committees that meet in the sunshine: Monday to the [Technical Coordinating Committee](#) and Thursday to the [Citizens’ Advisory Committee](#). Our speakers were supported by about 15 other CAJM folk at the CAC meeting which was a formal public hearing. You may view CAJM’s statements at these meetings in our shared [Strategy Team Affordable Housing/Blueprint](#) Google Drive folder.

In both instances the committees declined to endorse the staff’s recommendation to recommend that the Blueprint Intergovernmental Affairs (IA) Board vote against amending the Blueprint Interlocal Agreement to add a new Affordable Rental Housing Land Purchase Infrastructure Project. The committees elected instead to share comments with the IA Board.

While not optimal, these decisions are still wins for CAJM.

The [Intergovernmental Management Committee](#) (IMC) also will review the proposal and provide input to the IA Board. Comprised solely of City Manager Reese Goad and County Manager Vince Long, the IMC is not required to operate in the sunshine. We do not anticipate a favorable recommendation from the IMC. The city and county administrations have resisted this proposal from the outset as reflected in the staff’s continuing recommendations that the IA Board not do this, despite the fact that the IA Board has already voted twice to move this proposal forward.

Thursday, May 16, is the day of reckoning. Meeting in the City Commission chambers on the second floor of City, Hall, the IA Board will conduct a second public hearing and then vote on the new Affordable Rental Housing Land Purchase Infrastructure Project:

Project #30. Purchase of Land for Affordable Housing Projects: Funding to purchase land for mixed-income rental housing projects including units for low and very-low income families.

Passage requires supermajorities of both commissions: 4 of 5 city commissioners and 5 of 7 county commissioners. Strategy Team members are working on leveraging “influencers” for the two city doubtfuls - Mayor Dailey and Dianne Williams-Cox - and for County Commissioner Nick Maddox who has wavered. Several of us are meeting with County Commissioner Carolyn Cummings to more fully explain how the project could work following the very successful Penny for Pinellas model.

We aim to turn out 80+ CAJM folk at the May 16 public hearing, wearing green shirts, to support our speakers and demonstrate community support for this project proposal. We’re asking each congregation to send at least five people, so please attend if you are able and bring others with you.

The public hearing will commence at 5:00 pm or sometime thereafter depending on how many hearings the IA Board may be convening.

CAJM folk will assemble on the plaza in front of City Hall at 4:15 pm to crank up our people power before we enter the City Commission chambers. We hope to see you then!

Justice doesn't happen for free: Go Green for Justice in Tallahassee!

Bob

...

Robert E. Deyle, co-chair
Capital Area Justice Ministry
Affordable Housing Strategy Team
850-443-6657