

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

Created Pursuant to Code s. 21.256
Amended Pursuant to Ordinance 1139 on August 25, 2020

Powers & Duties:

Recommend specific actions or initiatives to encourage or facilitate affordable housing while protecting the ability of the property to appreciate in value. Evaluate the incentives contained in the Martin County local housing incentive plan and make recommendations for its amendment as needed to encourage or facilitate the creation or maintenance of affordable housing. Review the Martin County Local Housing Assistance Plan (SHIP) before its submission for adoption or amendment to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Review applications for SHIP funds by community-based organizations or eligible sponsors and provide recommendations for funding of these applications to the BCC. Function as the review committee set forth in the local housing assistance plan to advise and monitor the SHIP program, evaluate requests for exceptions from the regulations in accordance with the procedures set forth in the local housing assistance plan, and to hear appeals from decisions made by the SHIP program administrator.

How Appointed:

The **Committee shall consist of at least eight but not more than eleven members** who shall be appointed by resolution of the BCC. Five members shall constitute a quorum. **The Committee shall consist of one County Commissioner and one representative from at least six of the following categories:**

1. A citizen who is actively engaged in the residential homebuilding industry in connection with affordable housing
2. A citizen who is actively engaged in the banking or mortgage banking industry in connection with affordable housing
3. A citizen who is a representative of those areas of labor actively engaged in homebuilding in connection with affordable housing
4. A citizen who is actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons in connection with affordable housing
5. A citizen who is actively engaged as a for-profit provider of affordable housing
6. A citizen who is actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing
7. A citizen who is actively engaged as a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing
8. A citizen who actively serves on the Local Planning Agency (pursuant to Section 163.3174 Fla. Stat.)
9. A citizen who resides within Martin County
10. A citizen who represents employers within Martin County
11. A citizen who represents essential service personnel -- any person in need of affordable housing, who is employed by a company or organization located within Martin County, including, but not limited to, teachers and educators, police and fire personnel, health care personnel, and all building trades personnel.

Terms:

As of the effective date of the ordinance (March 28, 2017), up to six members of the Committee shall be appointed for a three-year term and up to five members shall be appointed for a two-year term. Thereafter, at the end of each members' term, the member may be reappointed for a two-year term or replaced with a member who shall be appointed for a two-year term. Appointments to fill a vacancy shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Meetings: Meetings shall be held quarterly, or more frequently as necessary.

Staff Liaison: Michelle Miller, Human Services Administrator

| Member | Position | Appointed | Term End |
|-----------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Eileen Vargas | County Commissioner, or designee | 11/19/2024 | 11/17/2026 |
| Diana Parker Owens | Citizen who resides within Martin County | 09/25/2023 | 09/25/2027 |
| Deborah C. Allen | Citizen who resides within Martin County | 09/25/2023 | 11/17/2027 |
| Linda Fithian | Citizen who resides within Martin County | 05/22/2022 | 05/21/2026 |
| Chester Edwards | Citizen actively engaged in the residential homebuilding industry in connection with affordable housing | 10/14/2008 | 10/14/2026 |
| Nick Blount | Citizen who is actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons in connection with affordable housing | 05/22/2022 | 05/21/2026 |
| Margaret Hetherington | Citizen who is actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons in connection with affordable housing | 05/22/2024 | 05/21/2026 |
| Thomas Campenni | Local Planning Agency | 05/22/2024 | 05/21/2026 |
| Michael Dooley | Citizen actively engaged as a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing | 10/14/2019 | 10/14/2026 |
| Jody Dupuis | Citizen who is actively engaged in the banking or mortgage banking industry in connection with affordable housing | 11/18/2025 | 11/17/2027 |
| ~ | Citizen who represents essential service personnel | | |
| ~ | Citizen who is a representative of those areas of labor actively engaged in homebuilding in connection with affordable housing | | |
| ~ | Citizen who is actively engaged as a for-profit provider of affordable housing | | |
| ~ | Citizen who is actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing | | |
| ~ | Citizen who represents employers within Martin County | | |

The Committee shall consist of at least 8 but not more than 11 members & shall consist of a County Commissioner and 1 representative from at least 6 of the categories.