

2017 Public Policy Positions

ADVANCE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW-AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

1. Strengthen neighborhoods by encouraging mixed-income and economic development projects while preserving affordable homeownership. Create [homestead preservation districts](#) and other initiatives that support existing residents (NP 5.2.5).
2. Attract mixed-income homebuilders to [infill areas](#) identified for thoughtful reinvestment with coordinated land assembly policies (Land Bank, Real Estate disposition, and Blight remediation; and by discounting building permit, zoning, sewer/water tap, [tree mitigation](#) and sidewalk waiver fees).

PROMOTE ACCESS TO SAFE, DECENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

1. Impact children living in poverty by focusing housing programs (whenever practical) on households including minor children.
2. Help existing residents preserve and improve their homes. Revise the home repair program to focus on a broader housing rehabilitation strategy that improves residents' health, living environments, and neighborhood.
3. Require any new or renewed TIF to inventory current housing conditions and report on the loss/gain in affordable housing due to TIF activity. Require each [Tax Increment Financing District](#) annual report to: (1) inventory current housing conditions within the TIF; (2) report on any gain or loss in affordable housing in the TIF; and (3) clearly and accurately reflect the affordable housing supported in any way with TIF funds (see NP 6.2.1).

CULTIVATE AND PRESERVE HEALTHY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

1. Structure and invest in programs that make abandoned vacant properties attractive and available for redevelopment or transfer to local neighborhood control/maintenance (community farms, gardens, parks, etc.).
2. Execute a strategy to permanently lower current City expenditures on mowing and maintaining long vacant property. Re-invest those savings in neighborhood infrastructure improvements.
3. Collect non-tax liens and re-invest those funds in neighborhood improvements. Provide non-tax lien (i.e. mowing, boarding-up) data in a comprehensive, user-friendly, GIS-enabled property database to enable strategic approaches to remediate blight (NP 3.1.3).
4. Improve the lives of current residents and encourage private development with investment in critical neighborhood infrastructure (public safety, sidewalks, lights, streets, parks, wi-fi) (NP 4.3.3). Minimize or completely discontinue current programs investing in developers/vertical construction in favor of investment in stronger, safer communities.

PROMOTE FINANCIAL STABILITY AND REDUCE POVERTY FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

1. Support job-training programs that pay participants a living wage and hire from communities in most need.
2. End economic development programs in 'high-opportunity' areas and focus economic development investment in areas of most critical need.
3. Revise DART policies and DART routes to focus on essential transportation needs (to work, school, medical, groceries, etc.).