

CITY OF NORWALK
FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Jalin T. Sead, Chairman; Rev. Richard Clarke, Joe Mann,
Carol Frank (3:10 – 3:35 p.m.) via telephone conference call)

STAFF: Attorney Margaret Suib, Fair Housing Offer

Chairman Mr. Sead called the order for the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one present from the public to comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ** MR. MANN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2024 MEETING AS SUBMITTED.
- ** REV. CLARKE SECONDED.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding City's Affordable Housing Study

Atty. Suib reported that as discussed last month, the City had hired a consultant to do a study as work force housing has not addressed the need for 'affordable housing'. She outlined that part of this study is a survey that is posted on the Redevelopment Agency website.

Mr. Mann tried to download the survey to input the responses as a group, but he was unable to present it as a Power Point. It was decided for each member to take the survey separately by cell phone, with a review of the questions done by the Commission.


Norwalk Housing & Development Survey

The City of Norwalk, in conjunction with the Redevelopment Agency, has been working to develop sustainable, equitable, and affordable housing opportunities, and we need your input to help guide the future of housing in Norwalk.

[Take the Survey](#)

Nonprofit Capacity Building Workshop Series 2024

Evolving from individual contributor to



NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT

Development and Housing Needs Survey

The City of Norwalk, in conjunction with the Redevelopment Agency, has been working to develop sustainable, equitable, and affordable housing opportunities throughout the City, with a focus on transit-oriented development (TOD) in and around the City's multi-modal transit hubs.

While the City moves forward with promoting additional TOD developments, we understand that is just one type of housing and may not meet the needs and desires of all. In response to that, the City is also developing a housing report incorporating both an understanding of Norwalk residents' housing needs and offering policy recommendations aimed at helping residents secure high quality affordable housing. Our goal is to better understand residents' perspectives and challenges in searching for housing, types of housing needed, and housing cost burdens.

We have prepared this survey, which should not take more than 5 minutes of your time, to gain a better understanding of how you view development and housing in the City. Your input is vital to this effort and greatly appreciated.

This survey is available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. For translation, please select your preferred language from the drop down menu in the upper right.

The survey begins with a series of questions on demographic information, location, income, location, and subjective questions on prior experience with housing.

The next sections are described and defined as follows:

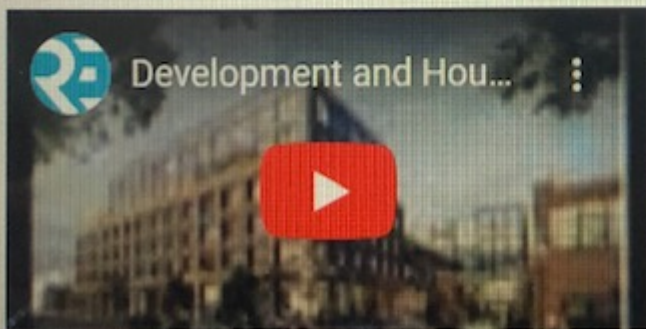
This section requires you to review a few concept images of an example development in Norwalk at 15-17 Chestnut Street (intersection of Chestnut & Henry Street).

This development will provide 200 mixed use, mixed income housing units and additional retail space directly adjacent to the South Norwalk Train Station. It seeks to further establish a transit-oriented development (TOD) district to provide additional housing, increase pedestrian and bicycle activity, improve access to jobs and retail centers, and decrease traffic congestion by providing better connections to transit and alternative modes of transportation.

Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement regarding this type of housing development in the City of Norwalk.

PLEASE WATCH THIS VIDEO BEFORE ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

Images will advance every 5 seconds upon playing. Select this link for a full size version of the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGIRF-EVRCI>



The members discussed the next questions and reviewed the factors that affect fair and representative responses relative to circumstances and existing conditions in housing in Norwalk.

Mr. Mann noted that this was a very good start to address the complexity of affordable housing and to keep this as an important issue to meet the needs of residents of Norwalk.

Atty. Suib added that it will be very interesting to see how the responses are tabulated and how the consultant will proceed with next steps following the results.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Sead spoke about the Ad Hoc Committee that will be hosting a round table discussion with community stakeholders. The meeting is planned for Wednesday, February 28, at 5:00 p.m. and will include members from local churches, Carver Center, etc. He noted that a confirming email will be sent to the members.

Discussion Regarding Fair Housing Month April

Atty. Suib reported that she has been in contact with City Hall and the Community Room reservation process is now done electronically, and she expects confirmation next week.

Chairman Sead will work with Atty. Suib on invitation responses for panelists and to include someone from the CT State Department of Housing. More information will be provided at next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

** MR. MANN MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** REV. CLARKE SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully,
Telesco Secretarial Service