

# *City of Deltona, Volusia County, Florida*

Planning and Development Services, Community Development  
SHIP Affordable Housing Programs

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday – February 12, 2009 @ 7:00 PM**

**Deltona City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room  
2345 Providence Boulevard, Deltona, Volusia County, Florida**

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### **I. Call to Order**

Vice Chairperson Mylene Valderrama called the February 12, 2009 meeting of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Deltona City Hall, 2345 Providence Boulevard, Deltona, Volusia County, Florida.

Members Present: Richard Rowland, Phillip Stephens, Caroline Turgeon, Mylene Valderrama, Ramon Villanueva.

Members NOT Present: Steve Westbrook, Robert MacDonald, J.C. Steele, Carl Stephens, Harry Wilkins & Michael Williams (all excused absences).

Alternate Member Lori Lamb was not present.

Staff members Ms. Lori Serino, Community Development Manager; and Cheri Wight, Recording Secretary were present.

### **II. Approval of Minutes - January 8, 2009**

There was not a quorum at this meeting. Minutes will be placed on the agenda for the March 12, 2009 meeting.

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. SHIP Disaster Assistance Strategy**

Lori mentioned that Diane Tyler is no longer with the City of Deltona as the "Recording Secretary". All of her hard work & dedication has been greatly appreciated since she did a fantastic job serving on this Committee and will be greatly missed. Diane was also responsible for all the research included within your package.

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However, her position was not funded in this budget and now Cheri Wight will be serving in her place.

Lori stated that during Tropical Storm Fay, residents that needed help immediately contacted the Fire Dept. which she was then able to identify the families that were affected by the storm. With that information, she was able to determine how many homes may needed assistance to request the funding from the State of Florida. The City of Deltona received \$500,000 to help those families that suffered damages during Tropical Storm Fay. They immediately mailed the applications directly to the addresses, and advertised in the local newspapers and opened a workshop to the public. Only 3 people attended the workshop and thus far SHIP has only received 8 applications spending \$100,000.

There are many reasons for the lack of participation such as; families simply abandoned the homes & no longer wanted to live there letting the homes go into foreclosure; they expected the city to purchase their home or they were “rental” properties & the funding specifically allows the subsidy to go to the “homeowner” of the property only.

It was suggested by Ramon Villanueva that perhaps the City could contact FEMA to track the families that actually contacted them for financial help after the storm (since they had the FEMA locations setup throughout the area) and that information could be utilized to determine what families are in need of help. Also, Richard Rowland mentioned that we could contact all the local insurance companies in the area, since a homeowner would also contact their agent if they needed a claim to be processed.

Ramon Villanueva also stated another idea to spread the word to the community is by Free “advertising” with Channel 13 & Fox News and possibly the Hispanic radio stations, 100.3 & 98.1..This is a FREE service they provide & would not cost the city a penny out of their budget..

This program is currently available to households that suffered damage from Tropical Storm Fay. Applications are online at [www.deltonafl.gov](http://www.deltonafl.gov) then select, “Housing & Community Development” on the left side of the home page, then click “SHIP Disaster Assistance Recovery Program” to download the flyer & the complete application. Copies are also available in the lobby at City Hall located at 2345 Providence Blvd. in Deltona, FL 32725.

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**B. Victory Gardens**

This was Richard Rowland's suggestion that this Committee should research the possibility of eliminating hunger by providing healthy food alternatives & growing a garden or plots of gardens for the community. Food is the number one issue for families in this economy and they simply cannot afford to pay the high prices for eating healthy. It would be wonderful to involve the FFA in the local schools and the Senior Citizens that grew up "farming" that would enjoy sharing their knowledge & volunteering....We may need an organization, such as a non-profit to "oversee" the project....

The City would also consider asking developers to encourage the preservation of land surrounding the residents in the community with a garden. Caroline Turgeon mentioned perhaps the flood affected areas where that land would be perfectly suited for gardening since otherwise, there will be nothing there. We could utilize the existing zoning that's Residential and create a "Special Exception", if necessary, for a pilot project? The City will have to do more research on this and will discuss further at the next meeting.

**IV. Comments**

**A. Staff**

There were no additional comments from staff.

**B. Committee Members**

There were no additional comments from the Committee members.

**V. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.**

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Steve Westbrook, Chairperson

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Cheri Wight, Recording Secretary