

**City of Hollywood  
Community Development Advisory Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 2022**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The City of Hollywood, Florida, held a Citizen Needs Assessment Meeting with the Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) and the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) on December 14, 2022 at the Fred Lippman Multipurpose Center at 2030 Polk St., Hollywood, Florida.

The meeting was called to order by CDAB Chair, Mitchell Anton, at 6:20 P.M.

**2. Introduction of CDAB Members by Mitch Anton:**

**CDAB Present:**

Mitchell Anton  
Jennifer Bello  
Phil de Souza  
Joann Fullington Reese  
Tom Lander  
Jennifer Luciani  
David Rosa  
Milana Walter  
Amber Yeisley

**CDAB Absent:**

Kelly Edwards  
Michael Gold

**3. Introduction of AHAC members by Vice-Mayor Adam Gruber:**

**AHAC Present:**

Vice-Mayor Adam Gruber  
Adriana Bolivar  
Henry Graham  
Jacqueline Grant  
Bernard Isler  
Robert Vargas  
Shamir Yaron

**AHAC Absent:**

Dameka Davis  
David McLeod  
Mohammad Reza Ronizi

**City of Hollywood Staff Present:**

Donna Biederman, Community Development Project Manager  
Andria Wingett, Development Services, Assistant Director  
Merry Kaye, Community Development Administrative Assistant  
Feng Jiang, Public Utilities, Assistant Director

**Public Present:**

Jon Bernardoni, Hollywood Community Church

Laurie Sallarulo, Junior Achievement, President/CEO

Lisa Vecchi, Broward Housing Solutions, President/CEO

Otto Velenzuela, Hispanic Unity, Associate Director Public Policy and Advocacy

Linda Parker, Women In Distress, President/CEO

**4. Presentation By Donna Biederman, Community Development Project Manager, Regarding The Community Development Division’s Program Funding For Fiscal Year 2023/2024.**

During her presentation, Ms. Biederman covered:

- Purpose of the Citizen Needs Assessment Meeting
- Role of the Community Development Advisory Board
- Role of Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
- Housing comparisons between the City of Hollywood, Broward County, State of Florida and United States.
- Education and Employment survey of the City of Hollywood’s population
- The two different Federal Funding Sources and details of what are eligible Activities

**5. Public Hearing “Citizen Needs Assessment” By Mitch Anton, Chair Of The Community Development Advisory Board, Regarding Public Input For Funding For Fiscal Year 2023/2024.**

*CDAB Chair Mitchell Anton opened the Public Hearing*

Mitch Anton explained the Board members and the Public present that this meeting was for the Public to express the needs of their organizations to service the residents of the City of Hollywood. The Board Members are in attendance to listen and to take the Speaker’s observations and their needs to apply the funding that will be available to the agencies that apply. From the Speaker Cards filled out at the registration table, Mr. Anton welcomed the Speakers.

Linda Parker, Women In Distress, President/CEO: Women in Distress is the Broward County approved shelter for domestic violence servicing 5,000-7,000 clients every year, as well over 12,000 hotline calls yearly. Hollywood has the highest count of domestic violence cases in Broward County and State of Florida. Ms. Parker said that she is in attendance tonight to represent the many clients that could put themselves in danger if they were to come in person. She wants everyone to know that she and her entire organization are very grateful for the funding they have received for the funding for rapid rehousing program. However, it seems that within the next 12-18 months there may be a real issue with the people who couldn’t afford rent will still be unable to afford the rent.

With many domestic violence cases, the clients need support, like case management, counseling services and protective support. Unfortunately, if people lose their housing, they will not be able to get the support they need, putting them in danger. I feel that we are heading for a housing crash and we everyone needs to look at the affordable housing situation.

Otto Velenzuela, Hispanic Unity of Florida , Associate Director Public Policy and Advocacy: He stated that the City of Hollywood and the Broward County residents are struggling. They are struggling find quality health care, quality education, and a fair quality of living. The residents come to their organization and other non-profits seeking care and stability. Mr. Velenzuela continued by stating their organization helps everyone, regardless of country of origin, race, or immigration status. And their organization can't help everyone. He invited the members of the both boards to read two reports called "State of Black Broward" and "State of Hispanic and Immigrant Broward." Both publications are on [hispanicunity.org](http://hispanicunity.org).

Lisa Vecchi, Broward Housing Solutions, President/CEO: Her organization identifies the most vulnerable of the population and currently, they are housing 414 individuals and their families. Included in the 414 are homeless veterans, homeless youth aging out of foster care, homeless single families, homeless families, homeless seniors and homeless single adults. As they continue to identify the neediest people, they have realized that our elderly population is the most at risk. Her organization recently purchased new properties that they have identified as senior solutions. The main message from their organization is that our society needs affordable housing. In Hollywood, they own a property on Wilson Street called Hanes Solutions. At this property they house youth aging out of foster care and offer rental subsidies. The rental subsidies assist the organization in maintaining their programs. As far as statistics, in the State of Florida for every 100 persons in need of affordable housing, only 20 available units; that number drops to 16 in Broward County. The good statistics, 98% of people that Broward Housing Solutions houses, that were once homeless, have remained stable; 100% of the youth residents 17 and under, have remained in stable homes; and 82% of the of people in their programs have had improved health conditions.

Laurie Sallarulo, Junior Achievement, President/CEO: When the subject of economic development is discussed, the focus is on the adults. In research, there are (2) main reasons for economic hardships. The first is the lack of financial literacy, how to save and manage money. The second is learning to find jobs, manage their jobs, and ultimately keep their jobs. A lot of focus is on the adults. Junior Achievements (JA) is on the youth to prepare them for the future. And many youth in the LMI areas, don't have the role models needed to learn how to how to overcome the economic hardships. Junior Achievement, with their partnership with Broward County schools, has the largest facility in the world and fifth and eight grade students visit the facility to learn about financial stability. However, the main focus needs to be on the high school students. They are training these students about jobs and job placement. They are teaching about starting companies, entrepreneurship. They are also teaching them how to

management their money and save their money. She wants to always remember the youth when they are talking about financial and economic hardship.

*Chair Mitchell Anton officially closed the Public Hearing.*

## **6. Discussion**

Chair Anton addressed the public with his appreciation of their attendance.

No additional member comments.

## **7. Adjournment**

*\*\*A motion was made by Milana Walter to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 PM and was seconded by Jennifer Bello. The motion passed unanimously. \*\**