



MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 4, 2005
TO: HOUSING ACTION TEAM
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: 2005 COUNCIL PRIORITIES WORKSHOP

Introduction

At the Council's March 14, 2005 Council Priorities Workshop the Housing Action Team was formed with Council Member Riesco as the chair and Council Member Rice as the co-chair.

Housing as a Regional Priority

At the Workshop discussion, the Council voted the issue of Housing as one of the top six regional priorities for the next year. This focus calls for implementation strategies that would affect one specific goal of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida (SRPP)*, Goal 6, Housing. Staff will also work with the Action Team members to advance this issue by formulating a Regional Housing Strategy by December 31, 2005, as required by the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida (SRPP)*.

Goal 6: Housing

Ensure the availability and equitable distribution of adequate, affordable housing for very low, low, and moderate-income households within the Region.

Target: Reduce the percentage of households with a cost burden in our Region to less than 30% by 2010.

At the Action Team's initial discussion, the following implementation measures were suggested:

- Advocate for a Regional Housing Strategy.
- Develop a multi-disciplinary Action Team comprised of stakeholders that includes, but is not limited to, housing advocates, developers, special needs advocates, insurance representatives, and tax assessors to address affordable housing issues.
- Acknowledge and utilize the affordable housing research, assistance and programs undertaken by local governments in the region as well as the programs of interested parties and organizations.

Council staff recommends the following action steps to further these measures:

1. Develop a "Regional Housing Strategy," which will be based on the following objectives:
 - Assure a fair distribution of housing among all cities and counties, so that every local government provides an opportunity for a mix of housing affordable to all income ranges;
 - Assist local governments in addressing the housing issues that are related to future growth in the South Florida region and are required to be addressed in the Housing Element of their Comprehensive Plan, as required by Chapter 163, F.S.;
 - Address the housing needs of the entire region in addition to addressing local housing needs;
 - Identify by geographic location areas that are suitable for redevelopment and higher densities, such as those areas indicated on the Livability and Connectivity Illustration of the *SRPP*; and
 - Quantify each local government's responsibility for accommodating its fair share of the regional housing need.
2. Provide assistance to local governments in identifying resources and opportunities to promote affordable housing. Specific actions may include:
 - Identify the key factors affecting affordability in the region.
 - Create a database of possible tools, actors and actions to be utilized by municipalities for the provision of affordable housing.
 - Identify potential funding sources and incentives to foster affordable housing.
2. Build upon the recent housing activities in the region. Specific actions may include:
 - Educational programs that address the importance and need for affordable housing.
 - Presentations that highlight recent local affordable housing activities.
 - Identification of opportunities to integrate local housing efforts.

Action Team Meeting of April 4, 2005

The Housing Action Team has scheduled its next meeting for April 4, 2005, immediately after the regularly scheduled Council meeting. At that meeting, Council staff recommends that the Action Team seek consensus on the recommended action steps, revise them as necessary and discuss specific measures necessary to initiate the agreed upon action steps.