

From: Jack Little [mailto:jacklittle719@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 12:24 PM
To: Nicholson, Laura 6-9190
Cc: Benjy Cooke; Thomasena Stokes-Marshall; Jeffery Ulma; sam.skardon@oneregionstrategy.com
Subject:

Laura,

Please accept our request concerning the crisis of housing affordability in Mt. Pleasant. The Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) present an excellent opportunity to make an impact in Mt. Pleasant and our region. Our appeal is to allow minor changes to the South Carolina Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) which will allow our Town and region be more competitive in the allocations provided by the Housing Finance & Development Authority.

Thank you very much for your work and interest in helping our community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Jack Little

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HOUSING for ALL
MOUNT PLEASANT

October 20, 2018

Dear South Carolina Housing Finance & Development Authority,

The Charleston Metro Area is experiencing a housing affordability crisis. While our region has experienced positive economic growth over the past decade, including healthy 12% wage growth, housing costs have risen dramatically faster. Median home sale prices have risen 27% over the same period, and average rent is up 49%.

The ripple effects this has caused in our region's economy, and our community, are stark. Many long-time residents are being priced out of their neighborhoods. Working professionals are living farther from employment centers resulting in hiring challenges for employers, increased traffic congestion, and difficulty accessing important services.

We are urgently seeking solutions to make financing possible for more affordable housing developments in the Charleston region. Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) present an excellent opportunity, if several changes are made to South Carolina's Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to make applications from our region more practical and competitive.

1. Given high land costs in rapidly growing and space constrained areas of our state, we request a significant increase, or removal of, current QAP caps on number of units and per unit cost within a development. The current caps are economically impractical for our region, resulting in developers choosing not to apply, and ultimately limiting affordable housing development.
2. Mixed use and mixed income developments produce the healthiest communities with the highest quality of life and are the most economically viable ways to create affordable housing. As such, we request the next QAP include an incentive mechanism for developing this type of community using LIHTC dollars to finance the affordable units within a larger development.
3. Several items in the site characteristics scoring system work against space constrained, geographically dense areas. Proximity requirements from railroad tracks, substations, and bars are particularly challenging for our area while multiple positive attributes – specifically medical facilities and schools with different specializations – should be able to count more than once.
4. We are grateful for the creation of the large-urban set-aside and support its further expansion and enhancement. More dollars in the set-aside would incentivize more applications, as would allowing more municipalities to participate. A mechanism to rotate the municipalities receiving these dollars would ensure a more equitable distribution of LIHTC funds throughout the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our requests. We look forward to further collaboration between SC Housing and the broad coalition of Charleston Metro Area stakeholders who are committed to addressing the housing affordability crisis in our region.

Sincerely,

Housing for All, Mount Pleasant