

Albuquerque & Bernalillo County Affordable Housing Initiatives May 2024 Updates

Affordable Housing Advocacy Letter Submitted to Albuquerque Mayor and Councilors, May 5, 2024

The Board of the League of Women Voters Central New Mexico (LWVCNM) submitted a Letter on May 5, 2024 to the City of Albuquerque Mayor and City Councilors during their FY25 Budget deliberations to advocate for the need for funding the creation of more affordable housing in Albuquerque. The Letter is supported by LWVCNM's position regarding Housing that states: *Local government has primary responsibility for making available, facilitating, and coordinating provision of affordable, decent, and safe housing using federal, state, county, or city funds.*

Per an Albuquerque City Council Resolution to the Budget Committee of the Whole, there was only one affordable housing project proposed (a hotel acquisition and conversion) for consideration in the FY25 Objectives: 'convert at least 100 hotel rooms into safe affordable rental units'. This one project represents only 1% (100 units) of the 1,000 housing unit annual goal set by the Mayor's Housing Forward Initiative.

In the letter the League advocated for \$20,000,000 to be allocated in the City's FY25 Budget to meet the annual goal of creating 1,000 affordable housing units (as part of the five year/5,000 housing units Housing Forward goal for FY24-FY29). This potential lack of funding for new affordable housing will thus increase competition for housing where households with less financial assets will be pushed down the affordable housing ladder and will lead to a continued increase in the unhoused population in Albuquerque. The League recognizes that the City must continue to effectively leverage all Federal, State and local resources to create more affordable housing to address the local housing market crisis for the sake of all its citizens – housed, precariously housed and unhoused.

Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative (MRGHC) Update

Meeting held Thursday, May 8, 3:00 pm at the Middle Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) Offices

Commission Members Present: Talia Friedman (Interim Chair), Sergio Martinez, Dan Majewski (Lawrence Rael, absent)

Administrative Updates: The Collaborative will vote at the June meeting on finalizing the Executive Director job description; and, whether an independent fiscal agent will be utilized to receive both City and County monetary contributions and provide financial oversight for expenditures of the MRGHC. The Commission also agreed to set a standing meeting on 2nd Thursday of each month at 3:00 pm at the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments offices.

Actions Taken: Ian Robertson, Director of Development with Titan Development, Ltd., was appointed as the fifth Collaborative member. Mr. Robertson is an architect and has expertise in real estate development in market rate housing development.

For informational purposes, the Joint City/County Administrative Resolution regarding the MRGHC, states that the "focus of this collaborative effort shall be long-range planning for the development and re-development of property for the purpose of planning, creating, and preserving affordable housing"; and, "to advance mutual interests in the provision of safe, sustainable, and affordable housing within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of

Bernalillo County, including but not limited to through the funding, development, acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, and delivery of affordable housing to qualified individuals and families”.