

Application Form--Affordable Housing Citizen Oversight Committee

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Position

On Monday, July 20, 2020 City Council adopted the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Ordinance and Funding Commitments Resolution. The Ordinance outlines the membership roles required for this committee. Please indicate below which roles apply to you.

Role: Community Member whose household has received assistance to secure or maintain housing within the last two years

This committee will consist of nine (9) voting members and two (2) non-voting alternates. If you are not selected for a voting position, are you interested in an alternate position? Yes

Background

How long have you lived in the City of Missoula? Almost 8 years
How long have you lived in the State of Montana? 41 years

Pronouns: She/her

What is your interest in serving on the Affordable Housing Citizen Oversight Committee?

I live in a tax credit apartment and am one of the community members that wouldn't be able to afford adequate housing without it. I have a disabled partner who is unable to work and we have a son with autism.

What skills and perspective will you bring to or draw on as a member of the Citizen Oversight Committee? Please include any experiences (lived and/or professional) or familiarity you have with affordable housing, zoning, funding, housing policy, or other relevant skills.

I have a undergraduate degree in social/community services. I have worked within nonprofit organizations since 2003.

Describe your vision of a successful Affordable Housing Citizen Oversight Committee.

A well-rounded committee who can look at all aspects of the housing issue and develop better understanding of our community's housing needs. It be great to help educate community members about the issues and find new partnerships to help develop more affordable housing for Missoula.

Why, in your opinion, are people in our community (Black, Indigenous, People of Color, those with lower incomes, young people, elderly people, etc.) being disproportionately affected by the affordable housing crisis in Missoula?

My opinion of why minority, disabled, elders and young people are more likely to be affected by the housing crisis is because the majority of us are in the lower income brackets. We also have more credit issues, less education about financial matters, worse credit scores, and more health issues which makes our ability to work more hours, harder and we are less likely to have money saved for an emergency.

Please provide a brief summary of your background (such as life, work, educational, or volunteer experience that feels relevant to this opportunity).

I graduated with two Bachelor degrees in Communication and Community Service from MSU-Northern in 2007. During my college career, I volunteered with AmeriCorps and worked at the Havre Food Bank, HRDC IV Mentoring for Tomorrow Program, with the after hours Crisis Line. I also am a former home owner of a USDA Rural Development loan which was done through the HRDC IV program with a self-help housing project.

Since moving here to Missoula, I have lived in UM student family housing, off campus in a property management apartment building, and for the last four years have lived in the Sweetgrass Commons tax credit apartment. I have struggled with paying rent and have not felt secure enough to move forward to being a home owner again here in this county.

References

Jennifer Means
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Janet Kenter
(406) 493-2552