

**Maria Palmer, Incumbent Chapel Hill Town Council**

**1. What are the highest priority affordable housing issues in your community?**

Most important priorities: Rental housing, Critical repairs, Permanent housing for homeless

Top priorities, but not most important: Senior housing, Mobile homes

Important, but lower priorities: Affordable homeownership

**2. Should local government provide more money or less money to support affordable housing in your community?**

Slightly more money. We must increase the funding, but I cannot see a sudden jump (such as the proposed 5c/) as being feasible immediately. We can also use other strategies, including providing more social and educational support for families in public housing or living in poverty. We can revise the LUMO to incentivize affordable housing and permit more multifamily developments, and we can partner with non-profits, UNC, Community Colleges, and other organizations to stretch our dollars. We must increase public transportation availability. We can also work to promote a living wage (or even better, \$15/hour) to help residents climb out of poverty and be able to pay market rates.

**3. Do you support donating surplus government-owned land to affordable housing developers?**

Yes. Absolutely. I voted to work with HDIC to develop affordable housing on Legion Rd. and also to use our land on Homestead Rd. for affordable units in partnership with UNC.

**4. Do you think local jurisdictions do an effective job coordinating housing policies and programs with other jurisdictions in the county, including Orange County government?**

Moderately effective. I think things have improved tremendously since the Orange Co. Affordable Housing Coalition came into being. I am sad that we will no longer have Sally Green on Council to provide her expertise, but hope to carry on with her work.

**5. What's one example of an affordable housing program or development that you think worked well. Please explain why you think that was successful and how you will support more of these successes in the future.**

There are several. I think the partnership with UNC, the Jackson Ctr and the Self Help Credit Union to support affordable housing in Northside is an example of something that is working well and is reversing a trend of low-income African American families leaving Chapel Hill. I also think the Community Home Trust homes at Vineyard Square are another example of a development that is working well, giving low-income families the opportunity to live in a beautiful area in Chapel Hill, with easy access to schools and amenities.

**6. Will you support a Town of Chapel Hill bond referendum that includes funding for affordable housing?**

Yes.

**7. At this time, the task force assessing the American Legion Post property owned by the Town of Chapel Hill has not included recommendations for affordable housing. Would you support affordable housing being developed on a portion of the property?**

Yes. If we can find a way to finance some affordable housing, it would be an ideal location. I think we will have to look at what proposals the town is able to negotiate.