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Page 1: Administered by the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition

Q1 Please enter your name.

Amy Ryan

Q2 What is the most important affordable housing issue in your community?

Rental housing	Most important priority
Affordable homeownership	Important but lower priority
Senior housing	Most important priority
Critical repairs	Top priority but not the most important
Mobile homes	Top priority but not the most important
Permanent housing for homeless	Important but lower priority

Q3 Should local government provide more money, level funding, or less money to support affordable housing in your community? If you said level or less, why? If you said more, how much more AND how do you plan to achieve this?

About the same amount of money

Please provide an explanation for your response.:

Chapel Hill makes a considerable investment to support affordable housing in our community, both in terms of financial commitment (including a voter-approved \$10 million housing bond) and town staff resources dedicated to the issue. We also contribute to affordability in other substantial ways, such as operating the largest fare-free bus system in the country, a significant part of our budget. The town now has a strategic plan for affordability, goals, and regular check-ins to make sure we're meeting our targets. As a member of Council, I'd look to maintain this strong commitment to affordability in all these forms into the future.

2019 Candidate Survey on Affordable Housing

Q4 Utilizing surplus government-owned land is an important tool for creating affordable housing. What are some parcels of public land you think should be made available for affordable housing? Are there any parcels that should not be?

Because we have many calls on our resources, such as for housing, infrastructure, parks/recreation, and institutional/civic needs, it's important that we plan strategically so we make the best use of each town parcel. For example, I think the town made the right call in using its land in eastern Chapel Hill to create the Greenfield project with its partner, DHIC.

I agree with the recommendations of the Town Properties Task Force that parcels at 2200 Homestead Road, the Parks and Recreation office at 200 Plant Road, and small tracts in and around Jay Street in Northside are good sites for affordable housing. There are some properties I wouldn't want to use for housing (Millhouse Road – far from retail services, located near a light industrial zone; Dry Creek parcels – sensitive ecological lands; and the Police Department site -- coal-ash contamination).

Q5 What is one local 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.

I think the Pee Wee Homes project in Northside is a great success story. First, it was a good model of effective partnership among the town, university, and local nonprofits. Second, it provides dwellings for our most vulnerable population – people transitioning from the homeless shelter to stable housing. Finally, it's the kind of creative project that models placing sensitive infill into existing neighborhoods to increase density with smaller, more affordable units.

Q6 How would you ensure that people who have been affected by the lack of affordable housing have a "seat" at decision-making tables about the future development of affordable housing in our community?

Outreach, outreach, outreach. In my time on the Planning Commission and town work groups, we've worked hard to bring all voices to the table, and I know Council and staff share that goal. The PC has brainstormed with staff on where to reach people in the community who don't usually participate, such as those living in affordable housing, and set up a special subcommittee to work on the issue.

We can also help increase participation by people affected by the lack of affordable housing by appointing them to our town boards and commissions – one of the recent PC members was a Habitat homeowner. When people see that others like them are involved, they are more likely to become involved themselves. We also need to make it more widely known that the town will reimburse travel and childcare expenses for board members – a great policy that makes it possible for more to serve.