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Page 1: Administered by the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition

Q1 Please enter your name.

Mark Bell

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

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

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?

Much more ,
money

Please provide an explanation for your response.:

I would like to see Hillsborough contribute more to address affordable housing through increased staffing, preservation of existing affordable neighborhoods, development of town-owned property, and collaboration with Orange County and national stakeholders. Increasing staffing could be accomplished incrementally and would support additional collaboration, and the town owns a parcel that is an ideal candidate for affordable housing that could become an in-kind contribution to a collaboration of affordable stakeholders without breaking the town budget.

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?

Hillsborough recently inventoried our town-owned land and identified one significant tract of land that is, in part, surplus and well-suited for development into long-term affordable housing. The Collins tract is the location of the future train station, which will require approximately 25% of the available tract. Part or all of the remaining land could become affordable housing and would be well-positioned for transportation, retail, and walkability. The few remaining surplus properties are gift tracts that may or may not be suitable for development.

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.

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County's Crescent Magnolia senior housing community in Hillsborough is a fantastic project that evolved over time but recently welcomed its first residents. Affordable housing projects like Crescent Magnolia are often collaborations supported by local and county governments through financial contributions, zoning, and regulatory assistance. The project is a great example of the type of collaboration Hillsborough would like to see in the future.

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?

The Town Board is responsible for setting the guiding principles of Hillsborough, and our 2019 Strategy Map includes Affordability as one of our core values, specifically "keeping the cost of services and living within reach of people who live and work here." We strive to guide our own's growth in a balanced way to prevent loss of existing affordable housing and to encourage new development to have a balance of housing stock, including long-term affordable housing. Equity and fairness are also core values in our Strategy Map, which includes recruiting citizen volunteers to our advisory boards who represent the community. Our Town Board and advisory board meetings are well-publicized and we strive to make sure the entire community is involved in our work to increase affordable housing.
