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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 04, 2019 12:30:55 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 04, 2019 2:33:43 PM
Time Spent: 02:02:47
IP Address: 50.55.52.42

Page 1: Administered by the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition

Q1 Please enter your name.

Matt Hughes

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

Rental housing
Affordable homeownership
Senior housing
Critical repairs
Mobile homes
Permanent housing for homeless

Most important priority
Top priority but not the most important
Top priority but not the most important
Top priority but not the most important
Important but lower priority
Most important 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?

Much more ,
money
Please provide an explanation for your response.:
Local government should provide much more funding to affordable housing initiatives. However, the reality in Hillsborough is that we do not have much room in our budget for additional expenditures beyond the current approvals for affordable housing and/or home renovations. I have a great deal of hesitancy when it comes to seeking out new tax revenues because I believe that raising property taxes contributes to the affordable housing issue as renters and homeowners will feel the burden of a very regressive tax source.

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 does not have a ton of surplus town-owned land that would be suitable for multi-family housing. I believe our best opportunity to make the largest impact would be to use a portion of the ~20 acres the town owns near the future Amtrak station for affordable and mixed income housing and partnering with an organization, such as Habitat, for development. The town board has not discussed what to do with all of the land and I think affordable housing near a major transit development makes the most sense and encourage additional multi-modal transportation.

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.

The homes that organizations such as Habitat and Empowerment have been able to provide has made a big impact in Hillsborough and Hillsborough has been a great partner with these organizations. For local government I would love to see more public-private partnerships, such as what the County did for Eno Haven. With limited financial resources Hillsborough partnering with the social sector, private sector, and other local governments, to build and finance affordable housing in the spirit of projects like Eno Haven can help us make a dent in the affordable housing issue.

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?

When it comes to the actions of Hillsborough, we don't have any advisory boards that really oversee affordable housing. More broadly I would like to see the greater Orange County community respond by ensuring that those who receive affordable housing services or are affected serve on task forces or advisory panels. When it comes to any local government actions I want to see more consultation with housing insecure individuals to see what they see their needs as and how we might be able to help the most.
