



## LEE'S SUMMIT MISSOURI

### City of Lee's Summit, MO Human Relations Commission

Summary of the October 3, 2018 Meeting

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**Members Present:**

Dale Beasley  
Susan Coffman  
Ben Tonga  
Tony Meyer  
Canise Salinas  
Roby Little  
Anne Wallace

**LSHA Attendees:**

Emmet Pierson  
Barbara Henson  
Tameka Bryant  
Syrtiler Kabat  
Darrin Taylor  
Phylliss Edson

**City Staff:**

Nick Edwards  
Colene Roberts

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#### **The Human Relations Commission met with the Lee's Summit Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.**

This regular meeting of the LSHA Board of Commissioners was attended by the City of Lee's Summit Human Relations Commission. Emmet Pierson called their meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. They attended to regular business items by approving the minutes of their last meeting; reviewing their expense report; reporting current occupancy and waiting list totals; giving a maintenance update; summarizing inspections; stating upcoming resident functions; and going over their Capital Improvements Report.

Mr. Taylor provided demographic data for people in LSHA programs. Information of note included the primary income sources (34% Social Security, 27% wages), number of children (963), and predominance of female heads of household (89%). LSHA has completed an extensive strategic planning process and has a goal of adding 100 units of affordable housing over the next 5 years.

There was some discussion of the challenges and misconceptions surrounding affordable housing. Residents of affordable housing pay their taxes and contribute to the economy of Lee's Summit but are often seen as less desirable neighbors. People who use LSHA programs include a lot of senior citizens and families. Affordable housing is an issue for many people. There are police officers, teachers, restaurant wait staff, and hospital employees who are young, single and just starting out. They are unable to afford housing in Lee's Summit. Building smaller new houses will not address the problem. The price of land in Lee's Summit makes single family housing too expensive. Any new affordable housing must be multi-family. Walkable areas with a mix of uses and a mix of income levels, is most desirable for both young professionals and empty-nesters.

Mr. Beasley said that HRC would like to help by hosting a Community Conversation on housing. Ms. Henson said that their Board has been trying to speak to as many people and groups in the community as possible, as part of their communications plan. The challenge of hosting a large, public meeting will be getting people to attend. Mr. Pierson suggested targeting large employers and making them aware of the benefits of adding more affordable housing in Lee's Summit. He also stated that churches have large audiences for the message. LSHA has already met with LSR7 Superintendent, Dr. Carpenter, and City of



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Lee's Summit CEDC. Mr. Taylor said that they presented the idea of inclusionary development to CEDC. The City could require that a percentage of the units of any housing development receiving tax abatements, be affordable housing.

Ms. Wallace asked the group if a media campaign is needed. The group discussed using the image of workers in local restaurants, schools, and hospitals who cannot afford to live in Lee's Summit. Losing young people to other surrounding communities is not good for Lee's Summit's future. Ms. Edson pointed out that a citizen survey and community strategic planning project are coming up and may provide some opportunities for outreach. Commissioners expressed the desire to continue working together and finalizing a plan for public education.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Colene Roberts