



April 2018 Standing Committee & Initiative Reports

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met on April 3rd to discuss GNOHA's legislative priorities and provide an update on the CZO process. GNOHA top bill priority for the 2018 Legislative Session was SB 462, which seeks to prevent the Smart Housing Mix. The Smart Housing Mix would require housing developments in certain parts of New Orleans to set aside some units for low income residents. GNOHA reached out to other state-wide partners to oppose this bill, as Lafayette and Alexandria are starting their housing alliances, GAHA and AHA respectively. The bill will be going to the full House of Representatives in May.

The Committee also discussed HB 455, which would require Short-Term rentals to pass basic safety and habitually inspections and register their unit with the fire marshal. This bill was passed by the house and is pending Senate final passage. GNOFHAC was working with Representative Katrina Jackson on HB 386. This bill addresses tenant's security deposit and works to ensure they are able to get it and create consequences for landlords. This bill was deferred; however, SB 466, a similar bill, was passed in the senate and pending House final approval.

We also talked about SCR 10, bill asking for a study to increase the age for foster care kids to 21. SB 129 was also a priority as it lifts the ages to 21 for any full-time high school students, allowing them to at least finish high school. Furthermore, we discussed SB 164 and HB 201, 254, 463, 468, and 476 all related to property taxes and lowering the burden on homeowners. We discussed HB 453, which would require that any law enacted concerning a sales and use tax exemption or exclusion shall be uniformly applicable to the sales and use taxes of all taxing authorities in the state. HB383, Louisiana First-Time 18 Home Buyer Act, authorizes rebates for first time home buyers was also added to our bill priorities.

All of the bills and their current status will be on the [bill tracker](#). Additionally, The CPC is still finalizing the Master Plan and CZO amendment process. As we are still in the early stages, we plan to have our first discussion shortly after the CPC releases the finalized Master Plan and CZO amendment process. GNOHA/HousingNOLA is also continuing their work with Blights Out to reduce blight in New Orleans. They met at the end of April to review policies around blight and will meet again to discuss the incoming administrations plans with blight. The group will draft a google document with issues around blight in New Orleans to begin work on actionable steps.

Short-Term Rental Subcommittee

The Short-Term Rental Subcommittee met in April to review JPNSI's report, [Short-Term Rentals, Long-Term Impacts: The Corrosion of Housing Access and Affordability in New Orleans](#), and general short-term rental policy. GNOHA opposed the soft cap resolution with the hope that the city would wait until after the May inaugurations to craft new legislation, but the resolution passed. The City Council did direct the CPC to conduct a study to determine if any modifications are warranted and to recommend changes that better guide the regulation of STRs. The study is open for public comments until July 2nd.

Homeownership Committee

The Homeownership Committee did not meet in April. At the next meeting, the Homeownership Committee will address the added recommendations for the 2018 Action Plan. The committee will also finalize the integration of the Energy Efficiency For All (EEFA) policy platforms into aspects of the Homeownership Committee platform. There is concern for homeowners who are cost-burdened due to high energy costs stemming from the older housing stock in the city. By making homes air-, water-, and light-tight, homeowners will see a reduction in their overall energy costs, which in turn reduces the cost of homeownership.

Nonprofit Roundtable

The Nonprofit Roundtable did not meet in April. A letter regarding the Nonprofit Rebuild Pilot Program (NRPP) and the Road Home program was drafted with the intentions of being sent to the LHC outlining challenges with the program, what changes can be implemented to improve the program, and what changes can be implemented to help the people whose homes were affected. The Roundtable will also discuss a Shared Solution that tracks client contact and will help clients in finding the right resources for their needs.

Rental Committee

The Rental Committee did not meet in April. At the March meeting, the committee decided that they will meeting quarterly with the next meeting being a summer meeting. The Rental Committee will remain active in times when increased engagement is needed, such as the work around the QAP. During April, GNOHA sent [comments](#) to the LHC around the QAP.

Energy Efficiency for All Coalition

The EEFA Coalition hosted several calls in April around the Public Service Commission and the 2018 Rental Market study. The coalition worked together to finished the [2018 Rental Market Study](#), laying out the need for energy efficiency in New Orleans. The coalition also drafted a letter to be sent to the PSC in an effort to get Energy Smart like programs started across the state.

Section 8 Subcommittee

The Section 8 subcommittee did not meet in April, but GNOHA submitted an email with suggestions from the Residential Council and Section 8 subcommittee to HANO. Additionally, HANO partnered with GNOFHAC to host the Open Neighborhoods Program to solicit new landlords interested in joining the HCV Program. The meetings have been completed and both agencies will work together to analyze the information. They will discuss any recommended changes to the HCV program and follow-up with a complete analysis.

Resiliency Committee

The April Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting was pushed to May 3rd. The committee discussed the upcoming hurricane season, which is expected to be an above average season. Researchers predict more tropical activity along the continental United States coastline and in the Caribbean. According to one study's data, there is a 38% chance that a major hurricane will strike between the Florida panhandle and the coast of Texas. There is a 39% chance that a major hurricane will strike the east coast of the U.S., which includes the Florida peninsula. The Caribbean has a 52% chance

of seeing a major hurricane this season, according to the study. Committee members are also continuing work with the National Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition. The Coalition discussed FEMA's release of their Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide (IAPPG) & Comment Matrix, which is open for comment until June 7th. Additionally, due to other policy opportunities the committee will be renamed to the Resiliency Committee. This committee will work on emergency preparedness, living with water, and our efforts with LA Safe initiative. LA SAFE (Louisiana's Strategic Adaptations for Future Environments) is made of leaders and organizations committed to enabling our community members to take proactive steps towards mitigating and avoiding risk as well as increasing resilience to address coastal challenges.

Capacity Building

GNOHA continues to build capacity with organizations across the state through the statewide housing alliance network. The search for more capacity building opportunities is ongoing in order to create a robust calendar of capacity building opportunities for our partners. The first cohort of the University of New Orleans Community Development Finance program graduated April 12. GNOHA also met with representatives from ADP about the possibility of a collective health insurance and payroll shared solution for GNOHA members.

Shared Solutions Initiative

GNOHA continues to gauge interest in the shared solutions initiative, receiving feedback from a core group of organizations. The top three categories of interest remain as financial services, graphic design services, and tax credit education. GNOHA and *trepwise* is in the process of compiling a preferred vendors list for these services, vetting vendors based on quality of work, pricing, and ability to accommodate to our members' general needs.

GNOHA and *trepwise* worked with Annie Cambria to research and curate a professional development workshop series on tax credits for the review of shared solutions participants. The initial workshop in the series was held at the April 9 GNOHA Monthly Meeting with a majority positive reception.

The potential topics for additional workshops on tax credits for CDCs and community members are:

- Tax Credits 101: the who, what, when, and why of utilizing tax credits for Affordable Housing (covers the basics of LIHTC, NMTC, FHTC/SHTC).
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credits 201.
- New Markets Tax Credits 201.
- Historic Tax Credits 201

GNOHA is also researching and curating professional development opportunities in the areas of finance management, marketing, and donor relations/fundraising that are being offered by local organizations and will continue to share these opportunities with shared solutions participants.

ConnectNOLA

HousingNOLA has been working with LAHousingSearch.org, a property listings website funded by the LHC, to promote the consistent listings of affordable housing opportunities on a centralized website. GNOHA has been fielding our developer members' interest and experiences with the website to determine if it will benefit affordable housing developers, landlords, and renters. We hope to advocate that government subsidized housing be required to list on LAHousingSearch.org in order to make affordable housing opportunities more accessible to tenants.

Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative

The Collaborative held its April Quarterly Meeting. The Collaborative discussed the upcoming study sessions for the HUD certification test for all homebuyer education counselors. HUD released the examination schedule for housing counselor certification for 2017; the announcement proclaimed the start of the HUD Certified Housing Counselor Examination will be on August 01, 2017. The Collaborative members will finalize the study plan, and commit to a schedule of study sessions for the summer.

The Collaborative will also discuss the next certification cycle. In 2018, any organization currently on the certified agencies list will have to reapply for their good standing status during the 2018-2019 Application Cycle. The Application Cycle will open in August 2018, and all of the organizations will be "secret shopped".

Outreach and Advocacy Committee (Put Housing First)

Wednesday, April 11, GNOHA members and staff participated in the NCRC's Hill Day to speak with the staff of Senators Kennedy and Cassidy about our #PutHousingFirst campaign and the housing priorities as identified through the 2018 Statewide Housing Listening Tour.

GNOHA also sent out Calls to Action in opposition of Smart Housing Mix preemption Senate Bill 462. SB462 would change wording from "inclusionary zoning" to "voluntary economic incentive policies," this bill seeks to preclude the possibility of mandatory inclusionary zoning, forbidding municipal and parish governments from requiring developers to have a specific number of low-income units to receive building permits. The bill passed the full Senate and House committee, and will be going to the House Chamber Friday, May 4.

HousingNOLA Initiatives

HousingNOLA Leadership Board

The Leadership Board did not meet in April. At the last meeting, Leadership Board members were updated on the Put Housing First Campaign, which released the candidate scorecards for the March 24th election. With the support of the Crescent City Community Land Trust, the scorecard results were advertised on multiple platforms, including radio, television, and social media. The meeting also covered HousingNOLA's legislative priorities, which includes securing a dedicated revenue source for state's housing trust fund and supporting the Justice Reinvestment Initiative with the addition of housing priorities.

Community Engagement Working Group

The Community Engagement Working group did not meet in April. The group is working with the Community Review Team to identify a new chair.

Community Review Team

The Community Review Team convened at the Strategic Neighborhood Development Workshop on April 21st. At the workshop, attendees met with American Planning Association planners from all over the country to discuss the various housing issues in the Claiborne Corridor.. Community Review Team Members, community leaders, and APA planners discussed issues such zoning and policy issues like parking waivers and tiny homes.

Data Working Group

The Data Working group did not meet in April but has begun work on the mid-year production report. The New Orleans Redevelopment Authority announced that it has begun work on updating the Market Value Analysis (MVA) which will once again be integrating the HousingNOLA typology after the MVA is complete.

Workforce Housing Council

The Workforce Housing Council did not meet in April. The group met in March to further discuss how to move forward on the relevant action items. Participants in the group were tasked with various assignments to engage organizations that work closely with the New Orleans workforce so they may be represented at future Workforce Housing Council meetings. The group also discussed creating a survey to circulate among workforce employers to gauge their understanding of their workers' needs.

Smart Housing Mix Tiger Team

The Smart Housing Mix would require housing developments in certain parts of New Orleans to set aside some units for low income residents. The New Orleans City Council passed a resolution in opposition to SB 462, a bill that seeks to prevent the Smart Housing Mix and any other mandatory inclusionary zoning ordinance from being implemented by local government. GNOHA had members present at the Senate and House Committee hearings on SB 462 to speak in opposition to the bill and calls to action were sent out.

Assessors Working Group

The Assessors Working Group continues to reviewing various models of property tax abatement solutions and is closely monitoring several bills that have the potential to impact tax rates for homeowners who are struggling due to increased assessed values caused by gentrification.

Lenders Roundtable

HousingNOLA submitted its application for the PRO Neighborhoods grant in April. Michael Swack, a national expert in community finance solutions, has been assisting us in our efforts to secure funding through for housing. The lack of capital is a critical problem within New Orleans' affordable housing crisis.

Insurance Task Force

The Insurance Task Force did not meet in April. The committee will continue to follow the current status of the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program; GNOHA has signed a Call to Action sent out urging supporters to contact their congressional representative to vote 'Yes' on the continuing resolution in order to keep the flood insurance program authorized. The Call to Action also urged everyone to call their Senators to give their support of the Continuing Resolution, and to complete a speedy, multi-year reauthorization of the NFIP that preserves affordability, increases opportunities for community and individual mitigation, improves the mapping process, and increases program participation.

At the next meeting, the Task Force will discuss the next steps involving the survey that was created for homeowners and developers, in the hopes that these survey results will give a foundation for policy recommendations that can be brought to the commissioner.

Healthy Homes Initiative

HousingNOLA is developing its work plan for Green and Healthy Homes in New Orleans. Through our partnership with Green and Healthy Homes Initiative and the National Resources Defense Council, GNOHA would partner with a local hospital system to pilot a preventative health program. Louisiana Public Health Institute and Ochsner Hospital are also helping to inform, work, and plan support for the pilot.

HousingNOLA is also working with Social Determinants of Health Task Force of the American Heart Association, which focuses on the social determinants of health, such as education and healthcare. They are hosting an event May 23rd on the Lafitte Greenway, Healthy Hearts for Stroke-Free Lives.

The Louisiana Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LHHCLPPP) is also working with HousingNOLA to provide information and resources about lead poisoning. The program provides program funding, public and professional education, public health lead investigations, case management, data collection and analysis. The program addresses the needs of lead-poisoned children from birth through 72 months of age. LHHCLPPP just recently received a grant from HUD to fully fund some of their lead abatement programs. We are in the early stages of working with them and HANO on outreach and providing assistance to those in need.

Housing for People with Disabilities Working Group

The National Disabilities Institute's working group did meet in April. However, the working group is still working on a resource map of New Orleans to assist people with disabilities in our region. The Initiative also continues to work with the Advocacy Center of Louisiana and their new policy team to tackle a

range of housing issues for people with disabilities. HousingNOLA is also working with UNITY of Greater New Orleans and their work around ending chronic homelessness among disabled individuals. UNITY has released their 2018 Point in Time Count, which is conducted each January in order to provide a comprehensive and accurate account of how many persons are homeless during one 24-hour period in emergency shelter, in homeless transitional housing, and in places not meant for human habitation on any given night.

At Risk Youth Housing Needs Initiative

The At Risk Youth Housing Needs Initiative did not meet in April.

New Orleans ReEntry/LAPRI Housing Committee

The Reentry Housing Task Force met on April 27th. The operators of the transitional housing network came together as well and will soon finalize a shared set of operating standards. The network will be going forward in phases, starting with growing resources before moving to opening physical locations. Ideally, after the first 2-3 in the McDaniels Center, the potential site of the network hub will be ready to take clients for housing and other wrap around services. The ideal total number of beds at that point will be 220. We have also discussed opening similar networks in the other parishes that are receiving large numbers of people returning from prison.

LGBTQ+ Task Force

The LGBTQ+ Task Force is still in the midst of planning their festival to reach out to LGBTQ+ folks who are experiencing homelessness. Plans include having vendors and services available for free for folks to utilize during the festival, as well as food and drink. During the festival a survey will be circulating so the task force may gather more information from attendees about their experiences as an LGBTQ+ identifying person who is experiencing homelessness.

AARP Age-Friendly Task Force/Aging-In-Place

The AARP Age-Friendly Task Force did not meet in April. As per the last meeting, the group is working on an accessibility audit for OC Haley Blvd. with a Tulane grad student. Leaders of the group also met with Mayor-Elect Cantrell to discuss the possibility of having her designate New Orleans as an “age friendly” city. According to leaders of the group, the meeting did not go well. The group is also preparing to apply for the Livable Communities Grant and wants input from members to take part in that.

Social Enterprise

The Baton Rouge housing plan will begin in March and HousingNOLA met with the Housing FIRST Alliance to refine the plan and amended timeline.

HousingLOUISIANA (Statewide Housing Alliance)

In April, the HousingLOUISIANA also focused on and discussed Senate Bill 462 at length and engaged with state and national partners to develop strategies to keep SB 462 from passing, which would allow developers to disregard affordable housing requirements. At the end of April a date was confirmed for the 2018 Southern Convening conference which will be held in New Orleans.

Regional summaries:

Alexandria Housing Alliance has filed incorporation documents and grant funding has been identified to cover some initial organizing and advocacy costs by the Power Coalition for Equity and Justice. They will be working to alleviate Alexandria's biggest issues which include utility problems and issues with their housing authority and Section 8 Programs.

Greater Acadiana Housing Alliance is formulating its organizing strategy . The Acadiana Regional Coalition on Housing and Homelessness has been primarily focusing on the area's homeless population but are open to working more across the spectrum of housing with the Greater Acadiana Housing Alliance.

Housing FIRST Alliance of the Capital Area has started on their housing plan. The Foundation For Louisiana as founded a LEAD cohort to create equity and education community leaders so they can be involved in creating housing policy.

Houma is still working to engage folks in their community who care about housing development with the support of the statewide network. They are also a part of the state Continuum of Care now.

Monroe has folks from FEMA coming to discuss housing. On May 9th they will be meeting with the housing committee and will soon have more information on how we can support their efforts.

Shreveport, North Shore, and Lake Charles Housing Alliance is in the early stages of formation. GNOHA will support their work as they continue to organize.

Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance is working on partners in Plaquemines and St. John the Baptist Parish to increase affordable housing in the larger metro area.