



**County of McHenry
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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McHenry County Board Passes Ordinance to Create Housing Commission

WOODSTOCK, IL – On Tuesday, January 5, the McHenry County Board adopted by ordinance the McHenry County Housing Commission. This is the culmination of a housing study in McHenry County entitled “A Place to Call Home” and the development of an ad-hoc committee to work towards the formation of a Housing Commission. Charged with addressing the economic downturn as related to housing, the task force determined it was in the best interests of the County to create a Commission purposed with developing educational, planning, and program initiatives that will meet the housing needs of all demographics and geographies of McHenry County.

“As the County’s population grows, it becomes more apparent - and important - to have a diversified housing market and supply. The Housing Commission will be vital in assisting the County to achieve that goal,” stated Tina Hill, Chairwoman of the McHenry County Planning and Development Committee on the need of a housing commission.

Early establishment of the Commission includes a two-year initial term focused on the actual development of powers, procedures, and methodology of the Commission. Educating the County regarding housing needs and solutions is at the core of the Commission. Newly appointed members will determine the capacities of the Commission including relationships with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Commission and other housing-focused agencies, the development of a countywide housing action plan, and the potential for creating or partnering with a nonprofit organization to carry out housing activities on behalf of the Commission.

“I am encouraged by the overwhelming support of the community and of the County Board for the creation and implementation of the McHenry County Housing Commission,” stated County Board member Barb Wheeler, who supported the formation of the Housing Commission, “The work of this Commission will be the collaboration of county, municipalities and local entities to provide the model housing policies, procedures, and planning initiatives for McHenry County housing.”

The McHenry County Housing Commission will make planning and policy decisions as related to housing that is feasible and in line with overall County planning focuses and identified needs. The Commission will advise in the granting of federal funds for housing projects, taking into consideration specific County goals for housing. Assistance in the form of education to municipalities to encourage collaboration in planning is essential in acquiring community support for housing development and achieving a balanced mix of options throughout the County. The Commission will serve to increase capacity in forms of funding, number of organizations, and actual attainable housing units.

For more information on the McHenry County Housing Commission, please contact Sarah Ciampi McHenry County Planning and Development at (815)334-4560.

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“McHenry County government is dedicated to providing the highest quality services for the health, safety, and welfare of the County’s residents and communities. We foster representative and transparent government to ensure social, economic and environmental justice.”