



Georgia Initiative for Community Housing

2023 Application

Instructions

Before completing the application form, please review the instructions. Questions regarding this application form or the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing should be directed to the GICH Director Dr. Jermaine Durham at 706-542-4949 or by email at Jermaine.Durham@uga.edu.

Webinar It is not required, but applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an informational webinar prior to submitting an application. There are two live webinars scheduled for May 19 and June 16, 2023, at 10am. For more information about the webinars and registration, please visit the GICH website (<https://www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich-how-to-apply>). You can also provide the GICH Director with your email address and be placed on the GICH mailing list.

Letter of Intent (1-2 pages) Prior to submitting the GICH application, applicants must submit a letter of intent by email to Jermaine Durham at Jermaine.Durham@uga.edu by July 7, 2023. In the LOI, please describe the circumstances that led you to the decision to apply for the GICH program. This may include housing issues facing your community, current partnerships and housing activities underway, or recent planning efforts citing the need. Also include: name, title, affiliation, telephone number, and email address of the person who will assume responsibility for pre-application communication. The initial point of contact person may be different from the primary contact for the application as listed in line 3-5.

Written Application

Questions 1- 2: Provide the name and address of the organization applying for participation. The applicant organization should be the lead agency/fiscal agent for the Community Housing Team. The applicant organization must be a City or County government or public housing authority.

Questions 3-8: Provide the name and contact information of the primary person (line 3-5) and the secondary person (lines 6-8) that will be the contact for activities of the Community Housing Team and questions about the application.

Question 9: Indicate which person will be Team Leader. The Team Leader is expected to be committed to the full three-year life of the program and to coordinate team meeting

arrangements, work schedules, fiscal matters, and to generally keep the team on task and motivated.

Question 10 There is no charge for participation in GICH activities. However, communities must cover travel and lodging costs for its housing team members to participate in the planning retreats and other associated team activities. **On average, yearly costs for a housing team can range between \$3,000 - \$5,000.** There are many ways in which these costs can be covered. For example, each team member might have their costs covered by the organization which they represent (e.g., City, County, housing authority, chamber of commerce, private business, church, or nonprofit). The community might also wish to raise funds locally or a single entity (e.g., local government, financial institution or chamber of commerce) might be willing to cover this cost. This section should indicate how the community anticipates covering these costs and the status of that funding. The estimated costs per team will be:

Yearly Travel Costs: Costs will consist of travel to two, multi-day (two or three day) retreats, which may require several overnight stays, depending on distance from your community. Lunches will be provided during the retreat but not dinners. Most hotels offer continental breakfast. For initial planning purposes, assume that conference hotel rooms may cost between **\$100 and \$135 per night**. The costs for the first year will be slightly higher than the second and third years, due to more retreat workdays. Your travel costs will vary depending on the number of team members attending and the distance of the retreats from your community.

Other Costs: Any costs incurred by the Community Housing Team during its work between retreat sessions will be the responsibility of the community. These costs should be negligible and based on decisions the team makes about meetings involving meals, local staff time devoted to meetings and meeting preparation, and other related expenses. Those costs and funding sources do not need to be included on this application form.

Question 11: List the members of the Community Housing Team. These will be the people who attend the Initiative activities and who are committed to working on the community's housing issues. Housing teams normally consist of 10 to 20 individuals and include representatives from local government, business (particularly banks, real estate, and builders/developers), nonprofit housing organizations, and the public housing authorities; among others. Each team is strongly encouraged to include a local elected official who is part of the team; consistently participates with the group by attending GICH retreats and local meetings, and acts as a liaison back to the local government. Other representatives that might be included, depending on your community, are faith-based organizations, churches, development authorities, chamber of commerce, school system, major employers, and law enforcement. If you have more than one individual from any group, include them in "other." In addition to giving the person's name, title, and organizational affiliation, each person is required to sign the application. If someone has not yet confirmed but has been invited, write "invited" in the signature column for that person.

Broad community representation and dedicated member participation on the housing team is vital to developing and implementing an effective housing plan. Participating communities are encouraged to send their full housing teams to each retreat. In reality, it is not always practical for every member to travel to each retreat. In fact, the team may have members that never attend the retreats, but participate in local meetings and events. It is imperative, however, that each team has a core group of 8 to 12 members that are dedicated to attending the retreats for the full three-year program. **GICH teams are required to attend (2) retreats per year during the duration of the three-year program. GICH teams must ensure that at least 4 members are in attendance during the scheduled retreats to remain "active". Teams with less than 4 members at retreats are defined as "inactive" and can risk losing DCA benefits or be removed from the program.**

Question 12: Indicate the extent of local support the Community Housing Team has from local governments and other entities in the community. Evidence of local government support includes allocations of budgeted funds, pledges of staff support, letters of support, and Council/Commission resolutions. Other types of local support would include pledges of funds and/or staff support, letters of support, and in-kind support such as meeting space and food.

Question 13: Describe the primary housing issues facing the community. You may attach one additional page. You may also attach completed housing studies, maps or other information that may be helpful for the selection committee. The description included in the application does not commit the community's housing team to identifying the issues described as the primary problems or key objectives for their work. It will, however, give the reviewers an idea of the types of issues that are currently identified as central to the community's housing needs.

Question 14: Describe housing activities successfully completed or currently underway or any other previous housing efforts in the community, including applications made for funding (such as CHIP, CDBG, LIHTC, etc). Activities described might include neighborhood rehabilitation efforts, rehabilitation of public housing units, concentrated code enforcement efforts, and construction of new affordable housing. You may attach one additional page to respond to this section.

Questions 15-16 Indicate whether or not the City and County governments have building inspection and/or code enforcement staff, a zoning ordinance, subdivision controls and an Urban Redevelopment Plan.

Questions 17-20 Indicate whether or not your community has participated in the Main Street Program, the Archway Partnership, or the Georgia Downtown Renaissance, has a land bank authority, has completed a housing needs assessment in the past three years, and has had worked with the Regional Commission in the past five years.

Question 21: Indicate whether or not your city government has collaborated with your County government on a community development or housing related project in the past five years. If so, please describe.

Question 22: Indicate whether or not your county government has collaborated with your City government on a community development or housing related project in the past five years. Describe below.

Question 23: This section provides you with an opportunity to explain why your community wishes to participate in the Initiative, what you hope to achieve by participating, how this work fits into the community's current initiatives and plans and what strengths the community brings to the process that will increase the likelihood that this will be a positive and useful experience for the community. You may attach one additional page to respond to this section.

Question 24: This section provides communities who applied in the previous year but were not accepted into the program an opportunity to explain why your community is ready to participate in the Initiative this year. This section does not apply to first-time applicants. Briefly describe activities and efforts that you have taken to build dedicated and sustainable team leadership and to work together as a collaborative group since your last application or site visit. (You may attach one additional sheet to respond to this section)

Certification & Acknowledgement of Responsibilities: An executive official of the applicant organization must certify that the information is correct, and that the community will assemble a housing team and fully participate in the program if chosen. The certifying official should be a responsible official of the organization (i.e., Chief Elected Official, Chair of the County Commission, Chair of the Public Housing Authority Board, or the appropriate combination, if a joint application).

Electronic Submittal is required. For the 2023 cycle, all GICH applications must be submitted electronically. The application can be accessed and submitted through the following link (https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5oJnrxsMwCZT2ke). All attachments must be scanned and incorporated into the application as PDF documents where indicated. Housing team member signatures can be submitted as a PDF or as scanned emails from each member indicating their participation. If you have any trouble submitting the application, or if you want to verify the status of your application, please contact the GICH program director Jermaine Durham by phone (706.542.4949) or via email (Jermaine.Durham@uga.edu).

Deadline Dates: Prospective communities must submit applications electronically no later than 5:00 PM EST on Monday July 31, 2023, to be considered for participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. Late applications will not be accepted.





APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION – 2022

SECTION A — APPLICANT AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION












1. Name of Applicant: Augusta, Georgia
2. Address: 535 Telfair Street
Augusta, GA 30901
3. Primary Contact Person: Mayor Garnett Johnson
4. Email Address: mayorjohnson@augustaga.gov
5. Telephone: 706.827.1831 Fax: 706.821.1835
6. Secondary Contact Person: Hawthorne Welcher, Jr.
7. Email Address: _____ Fax: 706.821.1784
8. Telephone: 706.821.1797
9. Indicate who is the Team Leader: Primary Contact ☐ Or Secondary Contact ☒




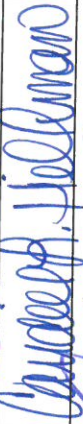




10. Funding Source(s) and Amount Allocated for Travel and Lodging Expenses:

	Funding Source(s)	Amount	Status (Requested or allocated)
Year 1	Housing and Communtiy Development General Funds Budget	\$10,000	Allocated
Year 2	Housing and Communtiy Development General Funds Budget	\$10,000	Allocated
Year 3	ousing and Communtiy Development General Funds BudgetH	\$10,000	Allocated

SECTION B — COMMUNITY HOUSING INFORMATION

11. Community Housing Team Members: (pages 2-3)

Housing Industry Groups	Name	Title	Affiliation	Signature Indicating Agreement to Participate
City government – elected official	Garnett Johnson	Mayor	N/A	
City government – staff	Brian Kepner	Deputy Director, Planning and Dev. Depart	N/A	
County government (if applicable) – elected official	Stacy Pulliam	Augusta Georgia Commissioner	N/A	
County government - (if applicable) - staff	Hawthorne Welcher, Jr.	Director, Housing and Community Development	N/A	
Bank	Phillip Wahl-Security Federal	President	N/A	
Real Estate	Porsha Beasley	LoKation Real Estate	Realtor	
Builder/Developer	Tim Wilson-Sand Hills Urban	Executive Director	N/A	
Nonprofit organizations	Shell Berry	President & CEO	N/A	
Habitat for Humanity	Bernadette Fortune	Executive Director	N/A	
Public housing authority	Jacob Oglesby	Director	N/A	
Local school system	Charlie Walker-Richmond County BOE	Board President	N/A	

Housing Industry Groups	Name	Title	Affiliation	Signature Indicating Agreement to Participate
Regional Commission /Planning Agency	Sydney Stouffer-CSRA Regional Commission	Deputy Director	N/A	
Chamber of Commerce	Ronic West-Augusta Metro Chamber	President / CEO	N/A	
Cooperative Extension	Charles Okpala-UGA Cooperative Ext.	County Extension Agent	N/A	
Family Connections	Candace Hillman	Executive Director	N/A	
Resident/citizen	John Milton	Resident / Citizen	N/A	
Faith-based organization	Rev. Moore-Good Shepherd Baptist Church	Pastor	N/A	
Planning/Zoning/Historic Preservation Board	Erick Montgomery-Historic Augusta	Executive Director	N/A	
Economic Development/Downtown Development/Urban Redevelopment/Land Bank Authority	Chris Johnson-Land Bank Authority	Board Chair	N/A	
Other	Stephen King-Georgia Power	External Affairs Manager	N/A	Invited

12. Please attach evidence of support from local government, businesses, and other organizations (e.g., letters of support, local government resolutions, and other actions):

See attached evidence of the pledged budgeted funds and staff support from the Augusta, Georgia, Administrator. Also attached are support and pledge letters from other local sources, letters from the community, for-profit, nonprofit, and faith-based organizations, and in-kind support like meeting space and food. This reflects Augusta's commitment to utilizing these resources to the best of our abilities to impact our community positively.

13. Describe the primary housing issues facing the community. In evaluating the adequacy and suitability of existing housing stock to serve current and future community needs, you may consider the following factors: housing types and mix, condition and occupancy, local cost of housing, cost-burdened households in the community, jobs-housing balance, housing needs of special populations, and availability of housing options across the life cycle. (you may attach two additional sheets to respond to this section):

The economic and foreclosure crisis of 2007 and 2010 devastated Augusta, Georgia's housing situation, just like many other low-income communities across the United States. Unfortunately, residents were left with severely inadequate housing and an average household wage that left them struggling to make ends meet.

In 1996 the City of Augusta consolidated with Richmond County to form Augusta-Richmond County, which is now one of only three consolidated governments in Georgia. This governing body consists of a Mayor and 10 Augusta-Richmond County commissioners. Augusta-Richmond County, best+

14. Describe housing activities successfully completed or currently underway or any other previous housing efforts in the community, including applications made for funding (such as CHIP, CDBG, LIHTC, etc). (you may attach one additional sheet to respond to this section):

See the attachments.

15. Does the City government have the following:

1. Building Inspection Staff No ☐ Yes ☒
If yes, how many positions (full-time equivalent)? 11
2. Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan No ☐ Yes ☒
3. Code Enforcement Staff No ☐ Yes ☒
If yes, how many positions (full-time equivalent)? 13
4. Zoning Ordinance No ☐ Yes ☒
5. Subdivision Ordinance No ☐ Yes ☒
6. Urban Redevelopment Plan (O.C.G.A 36-61-1) No ☐ Yes ☒

16. Does the County government have the following:

1. Building Inspection Staff No ☐ Yes ☒
If yes, how many positions (full-time equivalent)? 11
2. Code Enforcement Staff No ☐ Yes ☒
If yes, how many positions (full-time equivalent)? 13
3. Zoning Ordinance No ☐ Yes ☒
4. Subdivision Ordinance No ☐ Yes ☒

17. Has your community participated in the following programs?

1. Georgia Main Street	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(Years: _____)
2. Archway Partnership	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(Years: _____)
3. Georgia Downtown Renaissance	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(Years: _____)
4. DCA Georgia PlanFirst Program	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(Years: _____)
5. GMA Place Making Collaborative	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(Years: _____)

18. Does your community have a land bank authority? No ☐ Yes ☒

19. Has your community completed a housing needs assessment in the past three years?

No ☒ Yes ☐

If yes, please describe the scope, target area, funding, etc.

20. Has your community worked with your Regional Commission on community development activities in the past 5 years? No ☒ Yes ☐

If yes, please describe:

21. If this application is being submitted on behalf of a municipal government, has the city government collaborated with the county government on a community development or housing related project in the past five years? No ☐ Yes ☒

If yes, please describe:

See attachments

22. If this application is being submitted on behalf of a county government, has the county government collaborated with a municipal government within its jurisdiction on a community development or housing related project in the past five years?

No ☐ Yes ☒

If yes, please describe:

See the attachments

23. Briefly describe why your community wishes to participate in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing, what you expect as an outcome from your community's participation, and how this work fits into the community's current initiatives and plans. (You may attach additional sheets to respond to this section).

See the attachment.

24. This section provides communities who were not previously accepted into the program with an opportunity to explain why your community is ready to participate in the Initiative this year. This section does not apply to first-time applicants.

Briefly describe activities and efforts that you have taken to build dedicated and sustainable team leadership and to work together as a collaborative group since your last application or site visit. (You may attach additional sheets to respond to this section).

See the attachment.

SECTION C — CERTIFICATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Organization - The housing team must include broad community representation. Communities are expected to:

- develop a recruitment plan to assure the team remains reflective of your community, which includes a means of replacing nonparticipants or team member resignations. Furthermore, the team must continue to seek out new members when the need arises.
- include a local elected official who is part of the team; consistently participates with the group by attending GICH retreats and local meetings, and acts as a liaison back to the city council.
- notify the GICH program coordinator when team leader (or primary or secondary contact persons) change, by completing approved paperwork.

Attendance & participation - Dedicated team member participation on the housing team at the biannual retreats and local meetings is vital for meaningful facilitated discussion and developing and implementing an effective housing plan. Communities are expected to:

- maintain active and substantial participation at every retreat and at all group presentations and individual work sessions. This also includes giving report back presentations on progress at every retreat, starting in the fall of the first year.
- GICH teams must ensure that at least 4 members are in attendance during the scheduled retreats to remain "active". Teams with less than 4 members at retreats are defined as "inactive" and can risk losing DCA benefits, or be removed from the program.
- create and adhere to a local meeting schedule to continue plan development and implementation between initiative retreats. Communities must maintain a list of attendees and meeting minutes.

Product - The GICH program partners with communities to improve their quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally based housing and revitalization strategies. Communities are expected to:

- develop a plan working with their facilitator during retreat work sessions.
- continue to refine and amend the plan during local meetings.
- take steps to implement action items.
- assure sustainability of plan by developing future action items (juniors).
- maintain electronic copies of the up-to-date working plan. This is the responsibility of the local team leader.

To the best of my knowledge the information in this application is true and correct. By checking the "Yes" box below, the official representative of the applicant certifies these statements and acknowledges the following responsibilities of program participation:

Date: 7/31/2023

Yes ☒

Name of official representative (please print): Garnett Johnson

Title: Mayor



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Question Answers (13, 14, 18, 23, & 24) & Other Supporting Documents

2023 Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Application
~Attachment~ Question 13-Answer Continued

The analysis of the job housing balance in the area was challenging due to the numerous existing and planned land uses that cater to employment in District 1 and neighboring District 2. However, both districts are ideal for designing different types of affordable housing.

The available residential land use is ample, with medium to high-density residential land use accommodating jobs and affordable housing. The housing type in the community is divided into lower, moderate, and rather than higher-cost categories, depending on the population's income, which is \$46,464, less than Augusta's median. Generally, lower-cost housing includes multi-family dwellings at an existing or planned density of 80 square feet and two- and single-family residences of 100 square feet or less per dwelling unit.

Scheduled jobs and household income planned jobs were placed into low to moderate and extremely income categories based on the type of jobs in the area that are likely to be accommodated within the areas designated for commercial, industrial, and institutional uses by local plans and the wages for those job types.

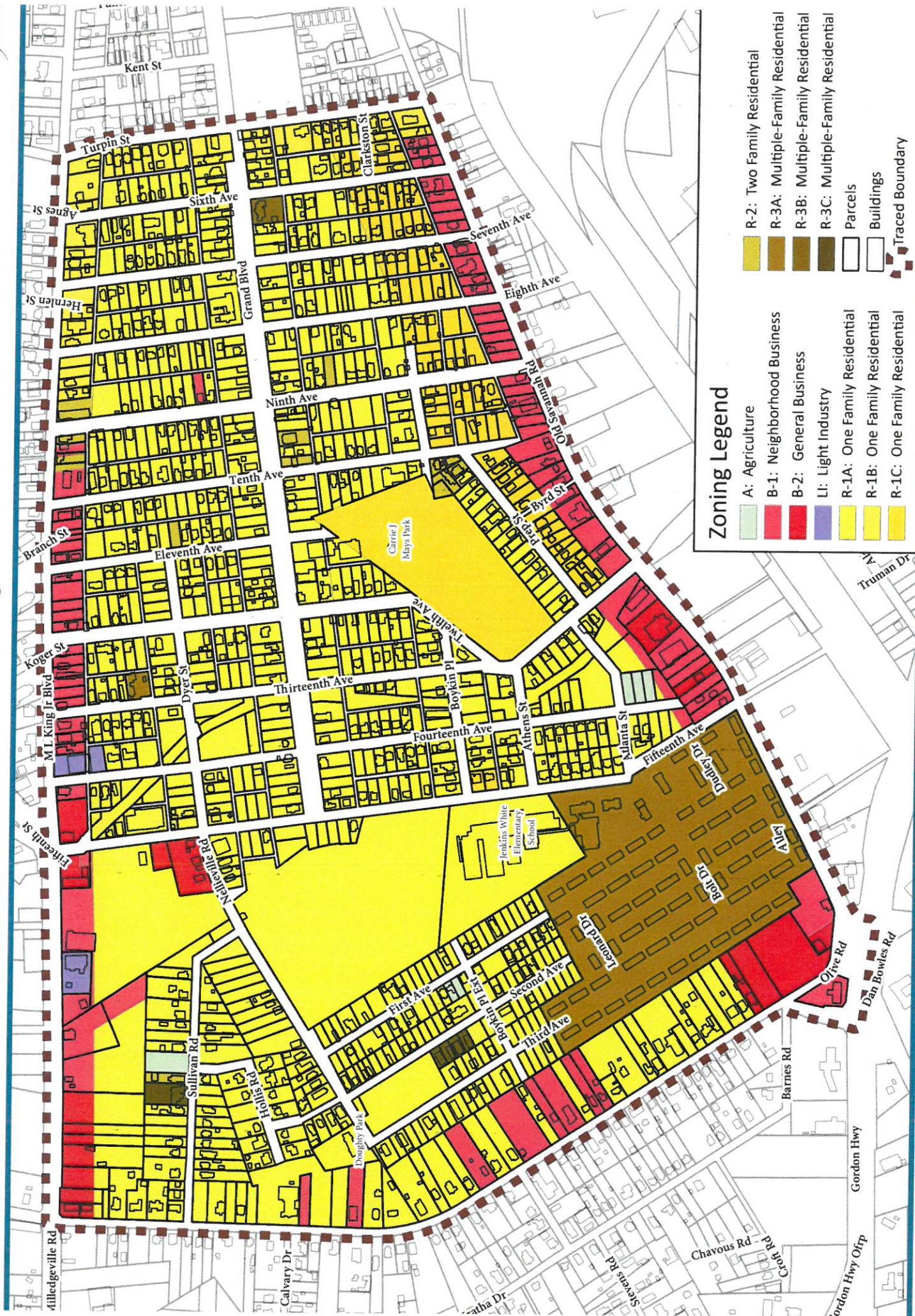
Creating a housing assessment and revitalization plan would greatly benefit the community by providing a strategy for housing and code enforcement. This would enable the area to gain tools and benefits such as inclusionary zoning, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocations, and housing trust funds. The plan would create a pathway for future development, which would create much-needed adequate housing for the area. Additionally, it would increase budgets to provide financial incentives such as down-payment assistance, homeless prevention services, and subsidies to encourage development.

By stabilizing the community, the plan would prevent the devastating adverse effects of gentrification. With the suitable parcels, assistance with developing a design for the use of land and building type, and a variety of affordable housing types such as multifamily, single-family, and workforce, the area would greatly benefit. Specifically, throughout Augusta Richmond County, the District Two neighborhood lacks a diversity of housing suitable for the aged and disabled population. Creating new housing options would create a new identity for the community, ultimately increasing economic development opportunities.

Information Sources: Augusta Georgia Planning and Development Department, Augusta Georgia Information Technology-GIS Division (Esri Software System-Sourced from The American Community Survey), Department U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Georgia Department of Labor-Workforce Statistics Division and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

The Augusta Georgia Information Technology-GIS Division utilizes the American Community Survey (ACS) replaces census sample data. Esri is releasing the 2017-2021. ACS estimates, five-year period data collected monthly from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2021. Although the ACS includes many of the subjects previously covered by the decennial census sample, there are significant differences between the two surveys including fundamental differences in survey design and residency rules.

The 2023 data conveys projections based on the analysis from previous years.



Zoning Legend

- | | |
|--|---|
| A: Agriculture | R-2: Two Family Residential |
| B-1: Neighborhood Business | R-3A: Multiple-Family Residential |
| B-2: General Business | R-3B: Multiple-Family Residential |
| LI: Light Industry | R-3C: Multiple-Family Residential |
| R-1A: One Family Residential | Parcels |
| R-1B: One Family Residential | Buildings |
| R-1C: One Family Residential | Traced Boundary |



2023 Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Application
~Attachment~
Question 14-Answer

Augusta, Georgia receives a yearly allocation of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and the Georgia Department of Community Housing Investment Program (CHIP) funds to help low-income individuals and families. With this funding, Augusta Housing & Community Development Department (HCD) has been able to assist with housing initiatives such as rehabilitation and development housing units. However, the need for assistance significantly outweighs the department's capacity to have an effective impact. There is a major housing need for low-income residents below the Area Median Income. Currently, Augusta, GA has a large population with an income below HUD's Area Median income of \$78,000 per family.

With assistance from Georgia Department of Community Affairs, HCD has been able to leverage federal funding to develop the Laney Walker-Bethlehem (LWB) Revitalization Initiative. This initiative was put in place to reverse decades of blight and disinvestment through the regeneration of 1,100 acres of property within two historic African American neighborhoods in Augusta's urban core. The LWB master plan was developed along with development guidelines for the area. HCD worked with the Augusta Georgia Land Bank Authority acquire over 300 parcels to provide single-family, mixed-use, and high-density residential units in 9 development nodes outlined in the masterplan. In 2010 construction began and continues to date, with over 400 affordable and workforce housing units developed throughout development nodes.

Augusta seeks to continue working with all stakeholders, community partners, and grassroots organizations through public/private partnerships to build impactful communities that enhance the quality of life.

2023 Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Application
~Attachment~
Question 18-Answer

We are thrilled to share why Augusta is eager to join the GICH initiative.

One of the primary reasons is to reflect on the progress we've made so far and share our successes and lessons learned with other communities across the state. Augusta is committed to creating sustainable and replicable solutions to communities' everyday challenges. Specifically, we're excited to use this opportunity to analyze our ongoing efforts to revitalize efforts utilizing the technical assistance gained from GICH to create blueprints for other communities looking to do the same. Our sights are set on the devastated neighborhood in District Two GICH support and guidance will enable us to mobilize and educate our housing team members and new leadership without detracting from our current efforts.

Through GICH, we aim to boost the capacity of new stakeholders and leaders in the community by identifying the needs and resources available in our target area. This will help us develop a comprehensive housing plan that can guide future development activities and lead to an increase in affordable housing stock in Augusta. Our housing team members will gain a holistic understanding of the process, including infrastructure, funding, and community engagement, enabling them to advocate for affordable housing more effectively. We'll also gain valuable insight and ideas on identifying and using existing community assets.

Participating in GICH will enable us to coordinate the various facets of our Housing Team to plan, act, evaluate, and share successes independently. The networks, skills, and competencies we'll gain through this initiative will help us keep pace with the economic growth coming to the area and provide quality housing options for all citizens. GICH allows us to enhance our creative thought patterns about solutions to the affordable housing crisis at all community levels - from homeless citizens to low or no-income households, first-time homebuyers, and existing owners.

Participation in GICH is a chance to rally local commitment and partner creatively with necessary funding and resources to ensure affordable housing for all and a brighter future for our community.

In closing, it's important to recognize that other counties in Georgia are also grappling with limited resources to address the issue of sheltered and unsheltered low-income communities. If our application for the GICH award is successful, Augusta will not only complete the program, but also extend our experience and resources to mentor, coach, and support our sister cities and counties that are dealing with similar challenges. Our aim is to overcome the barriers that are hindering the availability of affordable housing and make Georgia the ideal destination for visitors, newcomers, and residents alike.

2023 Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Application
~Attachment~ Question 23-Answer

Augusta is very excited to participate in GICH for many reasons, but two stand out the most. The first reason is that I want to reflect on the work we have been doing so far and share our outcomes, successes, and lessons learned with other communities throughout the state. We strongly believe in creating sustainable solutions to problems that vex all communities, and GICH provides an excellent opportunity to do just that. Specifically, the timing of the next cohort will allow us to revitalize the District Two Turpin Hill neighborhoods and serve as an example for other communities looking to start similar efforts.

We are also eager to participate because it will allow us to educate and mobilize our housing team members and new leadership without taking away from our current efforts. We hope to think creatively about solutions to the affordable housing crisis at all levels in our community, including homeless citizens, low- or no-income households, first-time homebuyers, and existing owners.

Overall, Augusta, Georgia, sees participation in the GICH as a way to locate and activate commitment at the local level, join with necessary funding and resources in creative partnership, and ensure affordable housing for all. We are excited to see what the future holds for our community and believe that GICH will play a key role in building a brighter future for us all.

2023 Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Application
~Attachment~ Question 24-Answer

Since our last submission, we have made significant strides in building solid and sustainable team leadership. We have worked Augusta's previous and current regional leaders from both the public and private sector and received invaluable guidance communities. Our strategic efforts have garnered support from stakeholders committed to rebuilding Augusta.

Our Augusta departments engage with the community annually, recognizing the importance of establishing meaningful connections, choosing the right platform for conversations, and setting the right tone for community engagement. By involving Augusta stakeholders and reassessing the program requirements, we recruited individuals and supporters with inclusive mindsets, missions, and initiatives who have completed leadership development programs. These individuals represent organizations and businesses eager to collaborate with Augusta residents.

Our previous process allowed us to fine-tune our proposal, emphasizing its strengths, addressing concerns, and providing more relevant detail in our answers to questions. We value our feedback and are committed to continuously improving our approach to ensure that we serve our community effectively.



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Augusta Georgia Office of Administration

Pledge Letter of Budgeted Funds and Staff Support



Office of the Administrator

Takiyah A. Douse
Interim Administrator

Augusta, Georgia
Office of the Mayor
Attn: Garnett Johnson, Mayor
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, GA 30901

July 28, 2023

Re: Augusta Georgia GICH Application Pledge Letter

Mayor Johnson,

The Augusta, Georgia Office of the Administrator is fully committed to providing affordable, safe, and healthy housing for all families in Augusta, Georgia. We are proud to lend our support to Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH). This program has tremendous potential for our area, and we would be thrilled to be a part of it.

I want to express our wholehearted pledge and enthusiastic endorsement of the following aspects of this proposal:

- **Dedicated Staff:**
We will provide two (2) Directors and ten (10) support staff from within the Housing and Community Development Department and the Planning and Development Department for the duration of the initiative.
- **Budget Allocation:**
We will allocate \$10,000 for the travel and lodging expenses of 20 members of the Augusta GICH Community Housing Team to support planning retreats and other associated team activities throughout the initiative.

Furthermore, we are excited to collaborate with the Office of the Mayor, GICH Community Housing Team, the Housing and Community Development Department, and the Planning and Development Department to ensure that this initiative is a resounding success. We are confident that with our collective efforts, we can achieve great things.

We are honored to be part of this project and urge you to seriously consider this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Douse".

Takiyah A Douse, Interim Administrator

Augusta-Richmond County
Municipal Building
Administrator's office
535 Telfair Street, Suite 910
Augusta, Georgia 30901
Office (706) 821-2898 Fax (706) 821-2819
www.augustaga.gov



AGA_UGA GICH Application

Community Support Letters

July 31, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Naomi Williams", written in a cursive style.

Naomi Williams

Neighborhood Resident

July 31, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,



Linda Thompson

Neighborhood Resident

Neighborhood Support Petition
for Augusta Georgia's Application for the
University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing

July 31, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

We are writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, we are overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. We see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. We support Augusta's willingness to gain through this program to position our non-profit and local government housing developers better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

We look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. We believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards.

See attached signatures of residents.

Neighborhood Support for Augusta Georgia's Application for the
University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing

Subject Matter: Support for Augusta Georgia to participate in the University of Georgia's
Georgia Initiative for Community Housing.

We express our support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's
Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, we are overly excited
about this program's potential for our area.

Name: Jennifer Baentes
Address: 744 Broad St Apt 402 Augusta, Ga 30904
Signature: [Signature]

Name: Calvin Hill
Address: 908 12th Street Augusta, Ga 30901
Signature: [Signature]

Name: Evan Greer
Address: 2133 Vandivore Rd Apt 7B Augusta Ga 30904
Signature: [Signature]

Name: Quelyn O'Bryant
Address: 1011 14th Ave Augusta
Signature: [Signature]

Name: Hattie D Hughes
Address: 2406 PAR DR Aug GA 30906
Signature: [Signature]

Neighborhood Support for Augusta Georgia's Application for the
University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing

We express our support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, we are overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Name: Beverly Lattimore

Address: 1730 Sibly Road Augusta, Ga 30909

Signature: Beverly Lattimore

Name: Bettye Jones

Address: 627 Longwood Trail 30909

Signature: Bettye L. Jones

Name: Deborah Little

Address: 1730 S. Sily Road Augusta Ga 30909

Signature: Deborah Little

Name: Linda Somillion

Address: 1907 Third ave

Signature: Linda Somillion

Name: MARSHALL GIBBONS

Address: 4601 MANTON CT

Signature: Marshall Gibbons



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

535 Telfair Street • Suite 300
Augusta, Georgia 30901

1803 Marvin Griffin Road
Augusta, Georgia 30906

July 26, 2023

Mayor Garnett Johnson
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

RE: University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express Planning and Development Department's support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, we are excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many of the residents of Augusta pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. Our department sees this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

Our department looks forward to contributing input in any way needed. The City of Augusta has this great opportunity in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. Our staff would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to our department, and hope that we can work together to adopt a robust and citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Brian L. Kepner
Deputy Director, Planning & Licensing
Planning & Development Department



Commissioner Stacy Pulliam, District 2

(762) 328-8256 (Cell)
(706) 821-1838 (Fax)

The housing affordability crisis in Augusta, Georgia, requires immediate attention and action. By participating in GICH and implementing strategic development strategies, Augusta can make significant progress in increasing the availability of affordable housing. Affordable housing not only preserves diversity and inclusivity but also contributes to economic stability and improved health and well-being. It is crucial for Augusta to be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can find a home in the community. Through collaboration and innovative approaches, Augusta can create a more equitable and sustainable housing market for its residents.

Regards,

Stacy Pulliam, Commissioner
District 2



Housing & Community Development Department

Hawthorne E. Welcher, Jr.
Director

Shauntia Lewis
Deputy Director

July 25, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,


Hawthorne Welcher, Jr.



Commissioner Stacy Pulliam, District 2

(762) 328-8256 (Cell)
(706) 821-1838 (Fax)

July 28, 2023

Honorable Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the Georgia Initiative For Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our beloved Augusta GA, a city known for its progressive politics and diverse population. Augusta is currently facing a housing affordability crisis. The soaring costs of housing have made it increasingly difficult for individuals and families to find affordable homes in the city. In response to this pressing issue, Augusta has applied for participation in GICH. This program has the potential to bring about positive change and increase the availability of affordable housing in the community.

Augusta, like many other cities/counties across the country, is grappling with a housing affordability crisis. The increasing costs of building materials and housing have outpriced many potential homeowners, leading to a decline in the diversity of incomes and backgrounds among residents. The City of Augusta recognizes the need for bold and forward-thinking measures to address this crisis and ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

GICH is a program that aims to increase the availability of affordable homes through strategic development. By participating in this initiative, Augusta can gain valuable knowledge and capacity to keep pace with market-rate competitors. The program will provide non-profit and local government housing developers with the necessary tools and resources to develop affordable housing options for residents in need.



July 27, 2023

Honorable Garnett Johnson, Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Johnson,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Wahl", written over a horizontal line.

Phil Wahl
President



13010 Morris Rd., Suite 650, Alpharetta, GA. 3004

July 25, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Porsha C. Beasley

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Porsha C. Beasley', written over the printed name.

Sand Hills Urban Development, Inc.

3062 Damascus Rd., Suite C - Augusta, GA 30904 - Phone: 706-733-3999 - Email: twilson@sandhillsaugusta.org

July 27, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

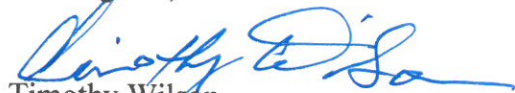
Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. The City of Augusta has done this one thing so very well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,



Timothy Wilson
Executive Director

"Creating a better community to live, work and play"
www.sandhillsaugusta.org



Community
FOUNDATION

for the
Central Savannah
River Area

July 27, 2023

Mr. Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Johnson,

I am writing to express the Community Foundation's support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. Bold, forward-thinking measures to increase affordable housing in our community are imperative to living out our shared values. The City of Augusta is well suited for deepening strategic partnerships to continue this work.

As a city, we are facing a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to make affordable homes more accessible for our most vulnerable neighbors. The knowledge and capacity gained through participation in this program will equip our non-profit and local government housing developers to keep pace with their market-rate counterparts. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that all its residents can afford to live in any neighborhood they choose with pride.

We look forward to contributing our voice in any way needed. This issue is deeply important to us at the Community Foundation, and we hope to work together to implement a robust, citywide housing strategy as a result of these efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Shell K. Berry
President/CEO



We build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.

July 24, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

RE: Georgia Initiative for Community Housing

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. There is a need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.



We build strength, stability, self-reliance *and* shelter.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Bernadette M. Fortune". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Bernadette M. Fortune
Chief Executive Officer



THE J. MADDEN REID
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1435 WALTON WAY
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA 30901

(706) 724-5466

(706) 724-5620 TDD

(706) 724-2342 FAX

www.augustapha.org
phaaug@augustapha.org

The HOUSING AUTHORITY Of The City of Augusta, Georgia

July 26, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor - City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy.

Best regards,

Douglas Freeman
Deputy Executive Director

RICHMOND COUNTY



BOARD OF EDUCATION

864 Broad Street – 4th Floor
Augusta, Georgia 30901-1215
(706) 826-1124 – Fax: (706) 826-4613

MR. CHARLIE B. WALKER, Jr.
President

July 27, 2023

Charlie Walker Jr.
President – RCBOE
864 Broad Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear President Walker,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the upcoming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Charlie Walker Jr.



CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA REGIONAL COMMISSION

3626 Walton Way Extension, Suite 1
Augusta, GA 30909-9851
(706) 210-2000 · fax (706) 210-2006
www.csrarc.ga.gov



July 26, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

On behalf of the CSRA Regional Commission (RC), I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH). Our agency has been involved in the GICH program since its inception. We are overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. We see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. There is a great need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

The RC looks forward to contributing their assistance in any way needed. We believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. We are eager to learn more as housing develops in the upcoming months. In the meantime, the RC knows how important this issue is to Augusta and our region as whole. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work together to adopt a robust and citywide housing strategy.

Best regards,

Deputy Director Center for Community Development





July 25, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Ronic West,
President/Co-Founder, GABCC



24 July 2023

Mr. Garnett Johnson
Mayor of the City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett Johnson,

I write to express my great support for the application of Augusta-Richmond County to the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH), University of Georgia. The GICH has very strong potential for Augusta-Richmond County.

Many Augustans, represented by diverse backgrounds and incomes, remain very progressive, however, the soaring costs of housing appears to negate this. The City of Augusta under your leadership is fighting this through bold, forward-thinking measures, which would help increase affordable housing in our community.

To build more affordable homes through strategic development is among crucial avenues to supplement the increasing challenge of housing affordability crisis. The GICH provides strong capacity and knowledge for non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped and compete effectively with their market-rate competitors. Importantly, this is the time for Augusta to lead the way in affordable housing to avail all income levels the choice to live in any part of Richmond County.

I will contribute to educate clients in the home-buying process, help provide the required knowledge base, and strengthen the success of GICH in Augusta-Richmond County.

God's blessings

Charles

Charles Odilichukwu R. OKPALA
MRES(Strath.), FLS (Lond.), CSci, FIFST (UK) MIAFP, MIFT, CFS (USA)
Family Consumer Science Agent
UGA - Augusta Richmond County Extension
602 Greene Street
Augusta, GA 30901-1428

Email: charles.okpala@uga.edu

Academic Editor, PeerJ – Life & Environment (<https://peerj.com/CharlesOkpala/>)

Academic Editor, Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops and Foods

Academic Editor, PlosONE

Guest Editor - Foods MDPI

Topical Advisory Panel Member - Foods MDPI

Co-Guest Editor for Special Issue – Sustainability MDPI

"Make effort so that today becomes better than yesterday, and tomorrow best"



**AUGUSTA PARTNERSHIP
FOR CHILDREN, INC.**

NETWORKING ➤ ENGAGING ➤ CONNECTING

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Candice L. Hillman, M.S.M.

July 24, 2023

Garnett Johnson

Mayor

City of Augusta

535 Telfair Street

Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt and robust and citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Candice L. Hillman, MSM

Executive Director



AUGUSTA PARTNERSHIP
FOR CHILDREN

family connection

— RICHMOND COUNTY —

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
Augusta Georgia
535 Telfair Street
Suite 200
Augusta, Georgia 30901

July 28, 2023

Re: Augusta Georgia_ GICH Application Pledge Letter

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am thrilled to express my confidence in Augusta's application for participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. As a proud resident of Augusta, I am dedicated to ensuring that all families in our community have access to safe and healthy housing. We recognize the importance of affordable homes in our city, and this program has the potential to help us meet this crucial need.

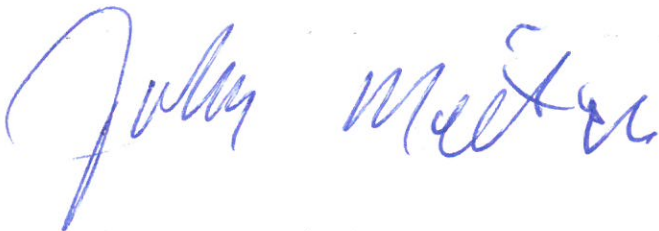
We are committed to providing in-kind services, such as meeting space or meals and beverages, to ensure the success of Augusta's GICH application. With the knowledge and capacity gained through this program, Augusta will be better equipped to compete with market-rate competitors.

It is imperative that Augusta becomes a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels have the opportunity to live in any neighborhood in Richmond County. We firmly believe that this program will help us achieve this goal and make Augusta a better place for all to call home.

I am eagerly looking forward to being a part of this project and strongly encourage your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

John Milton
August Georgia Resident

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Milton", is written over the typed name and title.



Good Shepherd Baptist Church

Rev. Clarence Moore, Pastor

1714 Olive Road

P.O. Box 141 (mailing address)

Augusta, Georgia 30903

Phone: 706-733-0341 Fax: 706-667-0205

e-mail address: admin@goodshepherd Augusta.org

July 27, 2023

Garnett Johnson, Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Johnson,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

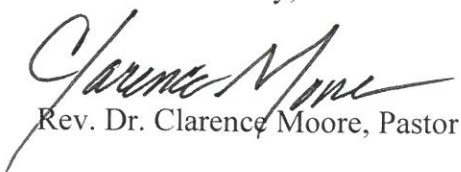
Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The need for assistance and affordable homes in our city. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose.

I look forward to contributing my voice in any way needed. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great community associates. I would love to learn more as housing develops in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I wanted you to know how important this issue is to me, and I hope we can work together to adopt a robust and citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Because of Calvary,


Rev. Dr. Clarence Moore, Pastor

"Win souls through Witnessing, Teaching, making Disciples, and Ministering to the Community"



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Mr. Jack Jones
Preservation Manager
Mrs. Rebecca Wood
Administrative Assistant

July 26, 2023

The Honorable Garnett Johnson, Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Johnson,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's "Georgia Initiative for Community Housing." After hearing about the initiative, I am encouraged about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has experienced a significant loss of this diversity. The increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values.

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development and rehabilitation of underutilized historic resources. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors.

It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels can afford to live in any Richmond County neighborhood they choose. I look forward to contributing my voice. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process. Smart buyers make smart decisions, and they make great better associates.

Sincerely,

Erick Montgomery

Erick D. Montgomery
Executive Director





T. CHRIS JOHNSON

Tax Commissioner Ex-Officio Sheriff

535 Telfair Street-Suite 100 | Augusta, GA 30901

706-821-2391

July 26, 2023

Garnett Johnson,
Mayor City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street, Suite 200
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Johnson,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am excited about this program's potential for our area.


Many Augustans pride themselves on the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's homeowners, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has experienced a significant loss of this diversity. In many cases, we see the increase in the building materials has outpriced the ability to become a new homeowner. As a result, bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community are imperative.

As a city, we face a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address that crisis is to build more affordable homes through strategic development. The knowledge and capacity gained through this program will position our non-profit and local government housing developers to be better equipped to keep pace with their market-rate competitors. It is important that Augusta be a leader in affordable housing to ensure that Richmond County residents of all income levels can afford to be homeowners.

I look forward to contributing to the success of this program. I believe in educating everyone interested in the home-buying process because smart buyers make smart decisions which strengthens the community. Please allow this letter to express my strong interest in this issue, and I look forward to working together to adopt a robust, citywide housing strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,


T. Chris Johnson



July 31, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

James K. Stiff

James K. Stiff
President

Building lives, families, and communities — one career at a time.

5171 Eisenhower Parkway • Macon, GA 31206 • (478) 475-9995 • Fax: (478) 471-4845
3145 Washington Road • Augusta, GA 30907 • (706) 650-5760 • Fax: (706) 650-5951

www.goodwillworks.org



706-821-1321 Office
1450 Greene Street, Suite 3500
Augusta, GA USA 30901
AugustaEDA.org

July 28, 2023

Garnett Johnson
Mayor
City of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Mayor Garnett,

I am writing to express my support for Augusta's application for participation in the University of Georgia's Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. After researching the initiative, I am overly excited about this program's potential for our area.

Many Augustans pride themselves on their progressive politics and the diversity of incomes and backgrounds represented among the city's residents, but with the soaring costs of housing, our community has already experienced a significant loss of this diversity. I see this daily; the increase in building materials has outpriced new homeowners. Bold, forward-thinking measures, to increase affordable housing in our community, are imperative to living our shared progressive values. This is one thing the City of Augusta has done so well!

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Cal Wray
President
Development Authority of Augusta, Georgia
706-284-5610
cwray@augustaeda.org



AGA_ UGA GICH Application

Pledge Letters of In-Kind Support



July 27, 2023

Augusta City Hall
Attn: Mayor Garnett Johnson
535 Telfair St., Suite 200
Augusta, GA 30901

Re: Augusta Georgia _ GICH Application Pledge Letter

Dear Mayor Johnson,

Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia & the CSRA is thrilled to express our confidence in Augusta's application for participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. As a non-profit entity with prominent operations in Augusta, we are dedicated to ensuring that all families in our community have access to safe and healthy housing. We recognize the importance of affordable homes in our city, and this program has the potential to help us meet this crucial need.

We are committed to providing in-kind services, such as meeting space, to ensure the success of Augusta's GICH application. With the knowledge and capacity gained through this program, Augusta will be better equipped to compete with market-rate competitors.

It is imperative that Augusta becomes a leader in affordable housing to ensure that residents of all income levels have the opportunity to live in any neighborhood in Richmond County. We firmly believe that this program will help us achieve this goal and make Augusta a better place for all to call home.

We are eagerly looking forward to being a part of this project and strongly encourage your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leah Pontani". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leah" and last name "Pontani" clearly visible.

Leah M. Pontani, MBA

Senior Vice President of Career Development

Building lives, families, and communities – one career at a time.

5171 Eisenhower Parkway – Macon, GA 31206 – (478) 475-9995

3145 Washington Road – Augusta, GA 30907 – (706) 650-5760

www.goodwillworks.org



July 28, 2023

The Honorable Garnett L. Johnson
Mayor of Augusta
535 Telfair Street
Suite 200
Augusta, GA 30901

Dear Mayor Johnson,

I write today in support of Augusta's application for participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. As Augusta's largest industrial employer, Textron Specialized Vehicles understands the importance of the availability of safe and affordable housing to our community's economic development and quality of life. This initiative has the potential to help us meet this crucial need.

Textron Specialized Vehicles is willing to provide in-kind services to ensure the success of Augusta's GICH application. Specifically, we will provide food and beverages to the initiative's attendees. If timing and space allow, we also might be able to provide meeting space to accommodate the initiative.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at 706.772.5931 or via e-mail at bhaddock@textron.com. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Haddock".

Brandon Haddock
Director, Communications



Johnny's Heating and Air
2322 Tubman Home Road
Augusta Ga 30906

July 26, 2023

Re: Augusta Georgia_ GICH Application Pledge Letter

Dear Mayor Garnett,

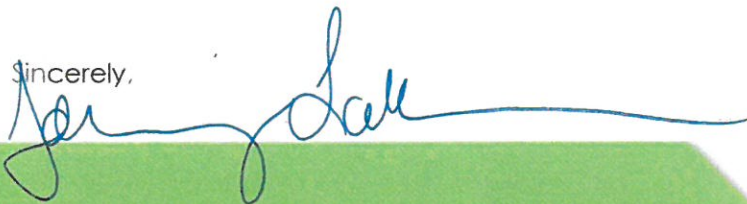
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I am eagerly looking forward to being a part of this project and strongly encourage your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Johnny's Heating and Air", is written over a green rectangular area. The signature is fluid and cursive.