

Town of Warrenton Request for Information – Affordable Housing

1. Submitting Organization: Fauquier County NAACP

2. Point of Contact: Housing Committee Chair – Miggy Strano naacpfauquierco.housing@gmail.com,
Fauquier County NAACP President – Conway Porter naacpfauquiercounty@gmail.com

3. Organization Overview: The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to secure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.

The function of the Fauquier NAACP Housing Committee is to study housing conditions in the community, receive and seek to address complaints of discrimination, oppose all restrictive practices whether public or private, and disseminate information and render such other assistance which may eliminate discrimination in housing.

4. The Housing Committee studied both the Town of Warrenton Comprehensive Plan and Fauquier County Comprehensive Plan's Housing section and provided extensive feedback on each. The Committee has a representative that serves on the Foothills Housing Network Steering Committee. They also reviewed and provided feedback on the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission's Regional Housing Study. The committee has held webinars and in person events on Homeownership and Tenants Rights for the community in partnership with regional and local organizations. The Fauquier branch developed a Housing Resources and Advocacy page for the community which can be found here. <https://www.naacpfauquiercounty.org/housing-resources>

The committee has also communicated to Town and County Staff, council members, Mayor, and supervisors on several occasions regarding housing issues. They developed a video highlighting the history and issues here under the section Housing Committee Spotlight: <https://www.naacpfauquiercounty.org/housing-advocacy>

5. Concept:

Since the Town Comprehensive plan was adopted in 2021, the Fauquier County NAACP Housing Committee has been advocating for a Town/County Housing Committee to be formed. When providing feedback on the Comprehensive plan which included identified housing gaps, town staff indicated that a housing committee would be tasked with closing these gaps.

A standing housing advisory committee would provide continuity, accessibility, and accountability regarding housing initiatives and issues.

- Continuity would be achieved even when council members and staff change, and when priorities shift. Example, when the Amazon data center SUP shifted the majority of the council's focus away from other initiatives.

- Access would be achieved by providing the community – private citizens, non-profits and businesses one focal point for housing initiatives and issues. Example, when a non-profit has a proposal they can go to the standing advisory committee.
- Accountability would be achieved by ensuring proposals are followed up on, funding evaluated, and the appropriate input collected before making decisions, example: ARPA fund allocation, county/town owned land designation, and zoning ordinance updates.

As an example, here is the Charlottesville Standing Housing Advisory Committee’s objectives:

(More information can be found here, including the member types that sit on the committee: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/975/Housing-Advisory-Committee>)

Purpose

The purpose of the HAC shall be:

- a. to advise the City Council as to affordable housing needs that are not being served within the City of Charlottesville,*
- b. recommend ways to encourage the for-profit housing sector to provide a variety of affordable housing opportunities,*
- c. advise City Council as to the need to improve or delete existing programs, support, or assistance,*
- d. advise City Council on the potential for regional, inter-jurisdictional cooperation in affordable housing programs*

In summary, we are requesting that the Town of Warrenton with Fauquier County form a standing housing advisory committee with representation from for-profit, non-profit, citizen and county/town staff.

6. All

7. N/A

8. Detailed in #5 above.

9. There might be Staff time needed to assist the committee. But since there are other standing committees, this should be business as usual regarding resource estimates/allocation.