

City Council Report
September 24, 2024
Housing Enhancement Committee

As you recall, the City Council created the Housing Enhancement Committee in 2023 to move forward on the Housing Strategic Growth Study's recommendations.

As we reported to you at your meeting on March 26, 2024, the Committee had decided the best route to implementing key housing-related recommendations would be through a local non-profit. Since then, the Committee has been working on finding such a non-profit. We have identified the Mixon-Clayton Bridge Builders Memorial Foundation as the best option for the following reasons:

- It is an already formed non-profit
- Located in one of the enhancement areas identified in the Study
- Previously developed affordable home ownership housing
- Has the capacity to administer a housing program

In keeping with the Study recommendations, the Foundation would be responsible for the following:

- Oversee the development of affordable home ownership housing on vacant and blighted properties identified in the Study's enhancement areas. The Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) provides financial and other resources to housing non-profits for this purpose.
- Coordinate with the Louisiana USDA to provide home repair assistance to lower income and senior homeowners
- Coordinate with the LHC and USDA, etc. to provide lower income home buyer assistance
- Assist property owners with succession/tangled title issues

It is our understanding that Hammond-Tangipahoa Home Mortgage Authority wishes to dissolve and allocate a portion of its remaining funds to the City of Hammond via CEA. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the City Council accept the dissolution of the Hammond-Tangipahoa Home Mortgage Authority and transfer the balance of the remaining Authority funds to the Mixon-Clayton Bridge Builders Memorial Foundation for use in implementing the Housing Strategic Growth Study recommendations.