President's Column

In November, supporters of affordable housing in Charlotte celebrated. Voters passed a bond that will infuse $50 million into the Housing Trust Fund.

In August, City Council also passed a new framework for how the bond money might be spent. It includes the idea of a city fund to purchase land as well as another fund to help nonprofit developers acquire existing affordable properties and keep them affordable. The city will be able to purchase some affordable properties outright.

All that is exciting news. Charlotte desperately needs more affordable housing. But where should it be located?

Charlotte City Council tried to answer that question in 2011 with its Housing Locational Policy. More recently the city held community meetings on where to locate affordable, multi-family housing developments.

As an affordable housing advocate in our region for nearly two decades, here's my take: We don't need revisions to the present policy. We need an entirely new one.

By starting over, we can create guidelines that help us preserve existing affordable housing and create new housing close to job centers and along public transportation corridors. Charlotte's housing policy must take transit and job opportunities into account, or it will be meaningless to the people it's intended to benefit.

The current policy was passed during Mayor Anthony Foxx's administration to help spread affordable housing throughout the city. The policy, though well-intended, didn't encourage more affordable housing at the pace we needed it.

Going forward, if an affordable apartment building is rehabbed and the rent raised, I believe the city must offer some assistance to help residents stay or make a transition to somewhere else they can afford. Keep in mind it can cost up to $3,000 just to move from one rental to another, given the need for a rental deposit, utilities deposits, moving expenses and other costs.

Something is seriously wrong when City Council has to approve waivers to its own policy to get affordable housing built. A new locational policy for affordable housing can be a valuable tool to improve the city we love.

An earlier version of this column appeared in QCityMetro.com.

Sincerely,

Floyd R. Davis, Jr.
President and CEO

Consolidated Total Revenue for FY2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>% of TOTAL</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>$417,020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>$1,261,890</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>$121,797</td>
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<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
<td>$3,514,556</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,387,703</strong></td>
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Program Expenses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>% of TOTAL</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hommeless to Housing</td>
<td>72.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asset Building</td>
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<td><strong>PROGRAM TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>Supporting Services</td>
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<td>Mgmt / General</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>SERVICES TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>14.8%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$764,171</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,146,010</strong></td>
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Independent Audit Performed by CliftonLarson Allen LLP

As effective stewards of the financial resources with which we are entrusted, you will find key financial and other organizational information on our website at: www.communitylinknc.org/who/financials

The organization’s most recent 990 is also available online at: www.guidestar.org

Community Link is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Tax ID # 56-0530008.

VITA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
(704) 761-VITA (8482)

100+ Volunteer Tax Preparers
10,474 Tax Refunds Filed
Savings of $2.6M in prep fees
Refunds/Credits of $10.1M
Community Impact of $17.4M

VITA OPPORTUNITIES: Volunteer Tax Preparers Needed

https://communitylinknc.org/volunteers/
**Core Values**

Excellence

Inclusive

Compassion

Investors

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**A Salute to Veterans and Active Duty Service Men and Women**

When you first meet Unetta Moore there is instant comradery. She possesses an infectious smile and humble, inviting demeanor. Her hearty laugh portrays her keen sense of humor and ability to dissolve tension.

Unetta describes herself as a perceptive people-person who is happiest when helping others to thrive and reach their potential. She attributes this to being raised by her devout grandmother, Miss Johnnie. “At an early age, I learned to get along with all types of people. My mom died when I was eight years old and I moved in with my grandmother, who lived in a diverse Puerto Rican neighborhood in Buffalo, New York. I was the only kid of color with American Indian heritage and a Baptist upbringing in an elementary school run by Catholic nuns.”

Unetta, one of Community Link’s Ambassadors, has an accomplished resume. She retired with distinction from the U.S. Navy in 2013 and currently serves in the North Carolina Air National Guard. Her latest deployment was to help victims of Hurricane Florence. In addition to the Guard, Unetta holds down full-time employment as a medical transport services specialist at the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services. She is also a new homeowner – having successfully completed Community Link’s Homebuyer Education and Counseling program.

Learn more about Unetta who is featured in the 2018 November/December issue of Pride Magazine, Lifestyle Trends. [www.pridemagazineonline.com](http://www.pridemagazineonline.com)

**Mark Your Calendars Now! 04.13.19**

Mint Museum - Randolph | 7pm - 10pm

On April 13th, our signature fundraising event, Sweet Escapes, is back for its eighth year. Sweet Escapes is a unique culinary extravaganza that helps raise resources to address the housing and homeless crisis in Charlotte and the Carolinas, and the perfect chance for you to give back. Each ticket purchased will help individuals and families obtain and sustain safe and affordable housing, and provide them with a continuum of services that will help them achieve financial stability and possibly, homeownership.

This year’s event has more to offer guests than ever before. In addition to exquisite chocolate confections, attendees will enjoy a variety of organic savory treats, live music, premium beverages, an incredible silent auction, and an extra special celebration in honor of Community Link’s 90th year.

For more information, visit: [https://communitylinknc.org/sweetescapes/](https://communitylinknc.org/sweetescapes/)