

# Housing Affordability & Community Revitalization Department Update

# Department Org. Structure Progress

## **New Operations & Program Management Staff**

- Permanent Housing & Supportive Services Division Director – Diane Cilento
- Strategic Advisor for Data – Vanessa Kopp
- Affordable Housing Planner – Chris Whittenhill
- Program Manager – John Scales
- Lending Manager – Offer Pending
- Executive Assistant – Currently Under Recruitment

# Department Org. Structure Progress

## **New Financial Team**

- Business Officer – Cicely Childs
- Senior Accountant – Jeanna Harris
- Senior Accounting Technician – Sebrena English

## **New Positions in FY20**

- Deputy Department Director
- HR Specialist
- Housing Resource Team (Homelessness Prevention Project)
  - 3 Reassignments & 4 New Positions

# PH & SS Division & Programming Updates



**New Division Director, Diane Cilento, began June 3, 2019 and brings 20 years of Permanent Supportive Housing experience to Wake County!**

## **Immediate Areas of Focus:**

- **Rental Housing Assistance Program (RHAP) Overhaul**  
This program currently supports more than 250 PSH rental assistance vouchers through multiple sources of funding. Diane will work with CSH to create and implement best practice policies and procedures
- **Cornerstone Program Assessment**  
With the launch of Oak City Cares, we are seeing a significant decrease in the demand for services at our Cornerstone location. Diane will work to evaluate current programming for necessity and recommend potential programmatic changes to address current community need.
- **Wake County Permanent Supportive Housing RFP contract management**  
Diane will take point on the management of the PSH RFP awarded contract and will work collaboratively with HACR Department Leadership team to ensure its success

# New Project: Housing Resource Team

The Housing Resource Team will launch the first ever Wake County-lead Homelessness Prevention Project (HPP).

HPP will help precariously housed individuals gain or maintain access to existing affordable units using a best practice approach to prevention and diversion services.

HPP Positions Under Recruitment:

- HPP Program Manger
- Outreach Specialist
- Community Resource Specialist
- Four Senior Case Managers

42,000 Renters Spend  
50% or More on  
Housing

26,000 or 60%  
earn less than  
\$24,000 annually

Rents  
are up  
35%

Median  
Income  
has only  
increased  
by 16%

3,400 new  
low-  
income  
families  
each year

Loss of  
900  
affordable  
units  
annually

# New Project: Preservation Warning System

With the onboarding of our Strategic Advisor for Data, Vanessa Kopp, HACR has begun to make progress toward the implementation of a Preservation Warning System (PWS) as was recommended in the Wake County Affordable Housing Plan.

The PWS will function as a data repository of all available information on affordable rental properties in Wake County (both legally binding and naturally occurring). This will help HACR stay ahead of potential sales to the open market, allowing HACR the chance to attempt to preserve their affordability before they are lost.

We estimate that this system will be functional before the end of the calendar year.

# Progress Towards PWS

**Four communities have been profiled, identifying: Goals/Target Population, Funding Sources, Stakeholders, Management/Policy Structure**

- Cook County/ Chicago Data Clearinghouse
- Ohio Preservation Compact
- Oregon Preservation Housing Project
- Florida Housing Data Clearing House

**More than fifteen different publicly available data sets have been identified and staff has begun to crosswalk those data elements with internal Wake Data.**

**Currently setting up calls/meetings:**

- Representatives from the profiled communities above
- Staff from TJCOG
- Director of Policy for NC Realtors Association
- Contacts at NC State