

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The City solicits citizen comments on the Draft FY 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan and Draft FY 2016 Action Plan and offers the community the opportunity to provide input at all public hearings on the Plan. Three public hearings took place during the Consolidated Plan planning process. The first was held by staff from the City's Office of Housing and Department of Community and Human Services on September 24, 2014, in City Hall, Room 2510. The purpose of the first public hearing was to obtain community input on housing, homeless, community and economic development needs prior to the development of the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan. The other meetings were held during the HUD-required, 30-day public comment period prior to Plan submission with one at the April 6th Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) meeting in City Hall, Room 3008, and one before City Council on April 18 in the City Council chambers.

A summary of the comments received by Housing and the City's response are provided below.

Summary of Comments Received

Bill Harris, AHAC and Commission on Aging Housing Committee. Harris made several comments regarding HUD's mandated new Consolidated Plan format as compared to the previous format developed by staff. He suggested that the new document should emphasize elderly and frail elderly affordable housing, assisted living and supportive service needs as had the prior Consolidated Plan, as well as the need for an assisted living, and/or mixed-income assisted living facility that will serve low- and moderate-income elderly. Such a facility was cited as an important need by both the Alexandria of Our Future: A Livable Community for All Ages (The Strategic Plan on Aging) and the Housing Master Plan. Harris recommends including this need as one of the Plan's five-year and one-year goals. Harris additionally provided a statement advocating for the creation of a minimum of 100 assisted living units for low- and moderate-income elderly people in the City.

City Response: Staff recognizes the significance of providing specific information in the Consolidated Plan regarding the City's elderly and frail elderly population. Because of the flexibility grantees were given in designing their previous Consolidated Plans, staff was able to devote a section specifically to "elderly and frail elderly." HUD's new uniform, web-based format limits grantees to mandatory elements. This new format requires grantees to provide text of no more than 4,000 characters on particular topics, significantly limiting the narrative that can accompany any one topic in the Plan. Elderly and frail elderly needs have been described in the City's FY 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, within the limitations on the text. To make up for this, the Plan references other City Plans, such as The Strategic Plan on Aging, which provides a more robust description of elderly and frail elderly housing needs.

Staff has spoken with Mr. Harris and is incorporating his comments, to the greatest extent possible, into the new Consolidated Plan format.

