



TOWN OF CARRBORO

NORTH CAROLINA

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AGENDA #3a(3)

Memo

To: John Link, Orange County Manager and Cal Horton, Chapel Town Manager
From: Steve Stewart, Carrboro Town Manager
CC: Tara Fikes, Director of Housing and Community Development Orange County,
James Harris Director of Community and Economic Development, Loryn Barnes,
Chapel Hill Community Development Coordinator
Date: February 3, 2004
Re: Status on the Substandard Housing committee

At the September 30, 2003 Orange County Assembly of Governments meeting Jacqueline Gist raised concerns about substandard housing and its implications and how people are helpless in dealing with it because they are outside the system. She suggested that a countywide task force with representatives from all three municipalities be established to find a way of examining the issue, to see how bad it really is, and to come up with some regulations and mechanisms that all municipalities would use to take care of the affected population. Aldermen Gist made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Halkiotos for each Board to appoint a Board member or representative to serve on an initial steering committee to address the issue of substandard rental properties, and ask staff to coordinate the meeting. John Herrera asked the AOG to put a target date on this task force and Jacquelyn Gist said that the steering committee should meet by the end of November and put target dates in at that time. The motion was approved unanimously.

Government staff has met on two occasions to talk about what is currently being done to address the affected population and explore what can be done to address the issue. Chapel Hill presented the Chapel Hill rental licensing program and how a data base has been started to help identify where the rental properties are located. The staff also discussed the impact the program is having on the rental situation in Chapel Hill. The staff group explored the potential structure and membership of a task force.

Because the AOG will not meet again until April it is requested that each local government appoint an elected representative to serve on the Substandard Housing task force. The task force would identify any additional resources needed and as outlined in the motion of September 30, 2003 examine the issue of rental substandard housing in the county and recommend regulations and mechanisms to address the issue. The regulations and mechanisms would be presented at a future AOG meeting for discussion. Jacquelyn Gist and John Herrera would convene the task force.