

III - HOUSING ELEMENT



Serving the Community

GOAL 3.1: The City shall encourage and promote the provision of decent, safe, and sanitary housing to meet the needs of the present and future population of the City.

Objective 3.1.1: **Housing Supply.** Assist the private sector to create additional units and preserve existing units to satisfy the projected demand of dwelling units of various types, sizes, and costs which will be needed to house the City's anticipated population through the planning horizon.

Policy 3.1.1.1: The City's Future Land Use Map shall provide adequate lands to accommodate the projected housing growth.

Policy 3.1.1.2: The City shall continue to provide land use designations and zoning districts on the Future Land Use and the Official Zoning Maps to ensure a variety of housing types including single family, duplex, and multifamily are allowed within the City.

Policy 3.1.1.3: The City shall continue to utilize local government partnerships with the private sector in order to improve the efficiency and expand the capacity of the housing delivery system.

Policy 3.1.1.4: The City shall continue to provide information, technical assistance and housing data to the private sector in order to maintain sufficient housing production capacity. Technical assistance includes, but is not limited to, assistance meeting the development review requirements of the City and other regulatory agencies; referral to appropriate agencies for information; assistance in meeting infrastructure standards and requirements imposed by the City; and provision of data regarding housing needs and conditions.

Policy 3.1.1.5: The City's land development regulations shall allow manufactured buildings (as defined in Chapter 553, F.S.) in all residential zoning districts provided the units comply with all relevant building code standards and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards.

Policy 3.1.1.6: The City shall promote mixed-use developments that include provisions for a wide variety of housing types and prices.

Policy 3.1.1.7: In order to maintain housing policies responsive to changing conditions, problems, and issues, the City shall undertake special housing studies as needed in order to develop specific local strategies for resolving unanticipated housing problems and issues.

Objective 3.1.2: **Elimination of Substandard Housing.** The City shall seek ways to eliminate substandard housing conditions and seek ways to improve the structural and aesthetic value of existing homes.

- Policy 3.1.2.1:** The City shall periodically review and update established housing policies to guide in the conservation, rehabilitation, and demolition program techniques and strategies.
- Policy 3.1.2.2:** The City of Cocoa will endeavor to eliminate slum and blight throughout the City.
- Policy 3.1.2.3:** The City shall identify existing housing units that need structural and aesthetic improvements and those that are beyond repair and rehabilitation should be demolished.
- Policy 3.1.2.4:** The City shall continue to enforce the Florida Building Code and the City of Cocoa's Property Maintenance Standards and Rental Regulations to ensure the construction and maintenance of sound and safe housing and, to encourage the correction of housing code violations, and to set the standards for quality housing within the City. Low income owner-occupants will continue to be referred to available housing assistance programs.
- Policy 3.1.2.5:** The City shall continue its proactive code enforcement program to monitor the conditions of the City's housing stock, reduce the amount of substandard housing, discourage boarded-up buildings, increase the number of affordable units, and preserve available housing stock using city, county, state or federal funds as available and within the scope of funding capabilities.

Objective 3.1.3: Relocation Housing. The City shall provide uniform and equitable treatment to persons displaced by State and local government programs, consistent with Section 421.55, F.S., and to persons displaced by public projects or programs for which federal or federal-aid funds are available or are used, in accordance with the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987, (Public Law 100-17, Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 132).

- Policy 3.1.3.1:** When residents are displaced as a result of redevelopment, demolition or other public projects, the City shall attempt to ensure the residents are able to relocate to appropriate housing.
- Policy 3.1.3.2:** The City shall coordinate with appropriate agencies to prepare plans of action regarding relocation of residents before programs are enacted that will create displaced households. Such plans shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Timing of the relocation;
 - Assessment of the need for the program that will displace households;
 - Costs associated with the displacement of such households; and

- An assessment of the household's needs and the impact of the relocation on the household, including:
 - Location and the effect of a new neighborhood location on the household's distance to job, schools, and social activities; and
 - The adequacy of public transit, if applicable at the time, to serve the displaced household.

Policy 3.1.3.3: The City shall assure that reasonably located standard housing, at affordable costs, continues to be available to persons displaced through public or quasi-public action prior to their displacement. When federal funds are used for acquisition, demolition, rehabilitation, or conversion, the City shall comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act and with Section 104(d) of the Housing & Community Development Act of 1974 (excluding acquisition), as amended from time to time and as implemented in the City's local housing assistance plans.

Policy 3.1.3.4: Relocation housing should be comparable to the existing dwelling as much as possible, with an emphasis on the number of rooms, size of living space, location to commercial and public facilities and place of employment, and shall be within the financial means of the displaced household. Relocation housing shall be a sound, safe, and sanitary dwelling meeting adopted housing and property maintenance codes.

Policy 3.1.3.5: In the event the City of Cocoa is declared a Federal Disaster Area and in an effort to prevent the relocation of residents whose homes have been declared unsafe for occupancy as a result of a tornado, hurricane or other disaster related event, the City of Cocoa shall permit the location and occupancy of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sponsored trailer on the affected single-family residential lot during the reconstruction of the principal structure. The FEMA sponsored trailer shall be removed once the Certificate of Occupancy for the principal structure is issued by the City's Building Official (if not sooner by mandate of FEMA).

Objective 3.1.4: Coordination. The City shall continue to coordinate with public and private sector entities that provide housing services.

Policy 3.1.4.1: The City shall monitor housing, community, and redevelopment proposals for consistency with this Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 3.1.4.2: The City shall continue to coordinate affordable housing, housing development and redevelopment activities with:

- Adjacent municipalities and Brevard County;

- State agencies (such as the Florida Department of Transportation);
- Brevard County School Board;
- East Central Florida Regional Planning Council;
- The Housing Authority of the City of Cocoa; and
- Brevard County HOME Consortium.

Objective 3.1.5: Energy Efficiency. The City shall encourage energy efficiency in the design, construction and rehabilitation of new and existing residential buildings in the City and incorporate alternative energy technologies in the land development regulations.

Policy 3.1.5.1: The City shall consider adopting an ordinance that promotes energy efficiency, use of alternative energy, and conservation alternatives in the construction and rehabilitation of existing buildings.

Policy 3.1.5.2: The City shall create incentive programs for housing projects that seek certification by Florida Green Building Coalition, United States Green Building Coalition (LEED Certifications), Energy Star, Water Star, or other types of certifications acceptable by the City. The incentives may be in the form of expedited plan review and permitting, flexibility of development standards, or monetary incentives.

Policy 3.1.5.3: The City shall consider creating a cross-departmental sustainability team to revise green building policies and engage the development community.

Policy 3.1.5.4: The City shall encourage City staff to obtain LEED accreditation.

Policy 3.1.5.5: The City shall continue the ongoing review and improvement of City codes to remove obstacles to green building.

Policy 3.1.5.6: The City shall promote energy conservation through its land development regulations.

Policy 3.1.5.7: The City shall continue to support Florida Power & Light (FPL) energy efficiency programs by informing residents of the programs that are offered by FPL.

Objective 3.1.6: Location of Housing. The City shall provide appropriate and adequate locations for very low income, low income, and moderate income housing, and provide for adequate sites for mobile and manufactured homes.

Policy 3.1.6.1: The City shall establish and maintain zoning classifications which allow for flexibility in land use design, density, housing types, and price levels to preserve affordable housing and residential neighborhoods, and allow for appropriate land use mixes for very low income, low income, and moderate income households, mobile

homes, manufactured homes, group homes and foster care facilities, and households with special needs including rural and farm worker households

Policy 3.1.6.2: The City shall ensure supporting infrastructure and public facilities are available and maintained to support the location of very low income, low income, and moderate income households as well as for mobile and manufactures homes.

Policy 3.1.6.3: The City shall review and amend its land development regulations to reflect the conditions and criteria consistent with Chapter 419, F.S., guiding the location of group homes and foster care facilities licensed or funded by the Florida Department of Children and Family Services that foster non-discrimination, and encourage the development of community residential alternatives to institutionalization including the infrastructure and public facilities.

Policy 3.1.6.4: The City shall include in its land development regulations site selection criteria for the location of housing for low and moderate-income families, group homes, foster care facilities, and manufactured homes which take into account the accessibility, convenience, and availability of public and private services because low-income families and the elderly often have no private means of transportation.

Policy 3.1.6.5: Should a need be demonstrated for rural and farmworker housing, the City will consider provisions for such housing opportunities.

Objective 3.1.7: Housing Programs. The City shall develop housing programs to improve the structural and aesthetic value of existing homes and the creation of new homes to meet the current and anticipated future residents of the City.

Policy 3.1.7.1: The City shall strengthen public education measures through affirmative outreach efforts to low income households to ensure that the persons or neighborhoods eligible for assistance are aware of its availability as well as the procedures for obtaining such assistance. Public workshops shall be held in areas where the needs are demonstrated.

Policy 3.1.7.2: The City will continue to seek and apply for funding programs to assist in housing rehabilitation, demolition, and preservation for qualified applicants. Housing ownership opportunities for low-income households will continue to be provided through federal and state housing programs.

Policy 3.1.7.3: The City shall survey all homeowners receiving housing rehabilitation assistance after receiving assistance to evaluate the quality of the work and to determine homeowner satisfaction with the program.

Policy 3.1.7.4: The City of Cocoa shall promote personal investment in the community and homeownership by encouraging residents, especially those participating in housing assistance programs, to become involved in community service organizations, projects, and City Boards.

GOAL 3.2: In order to encourage the preservation of the existing housing stock and minimize the relocation of residents and the demolition of housing, the city shall ensure the availability and maintenance of supporting infrastructure and avoid the concentration of affordable housing units only in specific areas of the city.

Objective 3.2.1: Housing Stock and Neighborhoods. The City shall encourage the stabilization of neighborhoods by extending the useful life of the existing housing stock through the enforcement of City codes that preserve neighborhood quality and maintain community facilities.

Policy 3.2.1.1: The placement of public facilities shall be planned so as to minimize the demolition of housing and related relocation of residents. When housing must be removed as a result of City actions, the City shall assess the feasibility of moving the housing to another location and rehabilitating it to standard, affordable conditions to preserve it as part of the City housing stock.

Policy 3.2.1.2: The City shall encourage the stabilization of neighborhoods by maintaining the quality of existing neighborhoods, by upgrading the supporting infrastructure and facilities, including paved public road access; stormwater management facilities and flood protection; wastewater disposal facilities; potable water facilities; solid waste collection service; electric utility service; and by protecting natural and historic resources.

Objective 3.2.2: Historically Significant Housing. Housing designated as historically significant by virtue of architecture, social significance, or ethnic heritage will continue to be identified and continue to be preserved and protected, and if possible, maintained for residential uses.

Policy 3.2.2.1: Applications will be submitted by the City to the Florida Division of Historical Resources for the housing units which have been and may be designated as individual structures or as part of a locally significant historic district to be included on the Florida Master Site File.

Policy 3.2.2.2: The City shall pursue available grants and alternative funding, where appropriate, to expand the local knowledge and awareness of existing historic and archaeological sites and structures.

Policy 3.2.2.3: The City shall assist owners of designated historically significant housing to apply for and utilize state and federal assistance programs.

- Policy 3.2.2.4:** The City shall encourage the continued identification, analysis, and preservation of the City’s historical resources. Such efforts shall include determination of their significance and vulnerability, as well as implementation of preservation management policies. Environmental reviews of units assisted with governmental resources shall be conducted as required.
- Policy 3.2.2.5:** The City will encourage the retention and preservation of historically significant structures, while discouraging their destruction by requiring that a need for demolition or significant alteration must be demonstrated prior to the issuance of a demolition permit or development order, with need being based on structural integrity, lack of economic feasibility of rehabilitation, restoration, or preservation, and absence of any feasible alternative, for the rehabilitation, restoration, adaptive reuse, or other alteration which would preserve the historic character of the structure. Where such need is demonstrated, relocation of the structure to an appropriate site may be waived if the applicant establishes the lack of feasibility of relocation. Where neither rehabilitation nor relocation is possible, mitigation of the loss of such properties through documentation techniques, including but not limited to measured drawings, photographs and descriptive narrative, will be the recommended treatment.
- Policy 3.2.2.6:** The City will adopt incentives to retain historically significant residential structures in the City through a variety of strategies and procedures including zoning, land development regulations, public and private land acquisition programs, and other techniques.
- Policy 3.2.2.7:** The City may require independent feasibility assessments of the feasibility of restoring or rehabilitating architecturally or historically significant residential resources as an alternative to demolition or significant alteration at the applicant's expense.
- Policy 3.2.2.8:** The City will establish a program for the preservation and improvement of historically significant housing, sites, and structures through participating with owners, citizens' groups, business organizations, and state and federal agencies in restoration, rehabilitation, and public or private purchase with the owner's consent of historically significant housing, sites or structures for the purpose of preservation.
- Policy 3.2.2.9:** The City shall not seek the local designation of a property or structure as historically significant without the owner's permission.
- Policy 3.2.2.10:** In identifying and improving historically significant housing, the City shall be guided by the Standards for Rehabilitation of the U.S.

Department of the Interior, as amended. Criteria such as the following shall be employed:

- A. The distinguished original qualities or character of a building structure or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alterations of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible.
- B. All buildings, structures, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance shall be discouraged.
- C. Changes that have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, neighborhood or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, such as the relocation of a structure many years ago, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.
- D. Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship which characterize a building structure, neighborhood or site shall be treated with sensitivity.
- E. Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced whenever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplications of features, substantiated by historic physical or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures.
- F. The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning methods that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken.
- G. Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural or cultural material and design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material and character of the property, neighborhood or environment.
- H. Whenever possible, new additions or alterations to structure shall be done in a manner so that removal of such additions

or alterations in the future would not impair the essential form and integrity of the structure.

- I. Applications for rehabilitation of housing which also are eligible for consideration, as historic resources or which are potentially significant historic structures shall be processed in conformance with state and federal guidelines.
- J. The City shall employ available measures with particular sensitivity for rehabilitation and preservation of housing which has historic significance by virtue of social factors or ethnic heritage.

Objective 3.2.3: Housing Safety. The City of Cocoa shall utilize Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in order to increase the safety of housing developments through the planning process and incorporate them in the land development regulations. CPTED principles and strategies shall include natural access control, natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement, and target hardening.

Policy 3.2.3.1: The City shall develop guidelines for the development community against which projects will be evaluated to ensure the incorporation of CPTED principles.

Policy 3.2.3.2: The City shall provide technical assistance to housing developers and non-profit housing providers to ensure compliance with CPTED principles.

Objective 3.2.4: Neighborhood Preservation. The City of Cocoa shall promote neighborhood preservation through the continued application and enforcement of zoning district regulations, land development regulations, and nuisance abatement regulations.

Policy 3.2.4.1: The City shall provide for the protection of residential neighborhoods from secondary effects of nearby commercial development.

Policy 3.2.4.2: The City shall require buffering and screening of residential neighborhoods from nearby incompatible land uses through significant landscaped buffer yards and/or compatible transitional uses.

Policy 3.2.4.3: The City shall protect residential neighborhoods from through-traffic with traffic calming measures as well as through the use of selected roadway materials, restrictions on use of roadways by nonresidential vehicles and redirecting traffic flow patterns.

Policy 3.2.4.4: The City shall protect residential neighborhoods from noise, water, and air pollution by regulating land development practices to ensure all applicable local, state, and federal air & water quality standards are met and maintained. Activities creating noise related disturbances

shall be restricted from inappropriate locations or required to provide more stringent attenuation measures.

- Policy 3.2.4.5:** The City shall encourage mass transit in residential neighborhoods, where appropriate, through the coordination of public transit routes and land use activity.
- Policy 3.2.4.6:** The City shall support neighborhood serving retail uses located in close proximity to residential property.
- Policy 3.2.4.7:** The City shall continue inspection of residential rental properties periodically to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the tenants. The City will continue to initiate inspections of properties in conjunction with appropriate state agencies in situations where: 1) a complaint has been filed with codes enforcement, 2) there exists an obvious code violation, or 3) when the owner applies for a building permit to expand his or her property. All inspectors shall be qualified and licensed to interpret the Florida Building Code and/or the ICC International Property Maintenance Code.
- Policy 3.2.4.8:** The City shall consider the potential impact of proposed projects on achieving reductions in the concentration of affordable multifamily housing when evaluating applications, awarding discretionary funds, and making recommendations concerning certified affordable housing projects, tax credits, and bond projects.
- Policy 3.2.4.9:** The City will preserve residential neighborhoods containing affordable housing through appropriate zoning classifications and housing rehabilitation programs which protect their residential integrity and character. The City will give great weight to preserving the residential integrity and character of such neighborhoods in considering petitions by property owners for zoning changes.
- Policy 3.2.4.10:** The City will support programs and partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors to improve coordination among participants in housing production to preserve, improve, and produce affordable housing through means such as providing grants for land acquisition for production of affordable housing; waiving or subsidizing impact, hook-up, or permitting fees; providing technical assistance; streamlining the permitting and inspection process; providing landscaping or infrastructure improvements to support residential development and rehabilitation; providing density bonuses; or providing funding for capacity building.

GOAL 3.3: The City shall ensure the provision and distribution of adequate sites for affordable housing for present and future populations of the City.

Objective 3.3.1: Incentives for Affordable Housing. The City shall maintain land development regulations and procedures which assist the private and non-profit sector in providing identified housing needs of various types, sizes and costs.

Policy 3.3.1.1: The City shall continue and promote its density bonus program to encourage the private sector to provide affordable housing. The following guidelines shall be utilized in the implementation of the density bonus program.

A. AMOUNT OF BONUS.

For each newly constructed unit of qualifying affordable housing as defined below, the developer shall be entitled to an increase of ten thousand (10,000) square feet of floor area bonus for new construction within the CBD. For a substantial rehabilitation of qualifying affordable housing defined below, the developer shall be entitled to an increase of five thousand (5,000) square feet of floor area bonus for new construction within the CBD. Such bonus is transferable.

B. QUALIFYING AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

1. Qualifying affordable housing shall be newly constructed single-family housing or substantial rehabilitation of housing, made available for purchase by a qualifying low income household, and subject to the following restrictions:
 - (a) Housing units must be available for purchase and must actually be purchased by a low income household (as defined in Section 420.0004(11), F.S.) at a monthly cost including property taxes, utilities, and insurance not exceeding thirty percent (30%) of the purchasing household's median gross annual income.
 - (b) The purchaser of such affordable housing unit must, at the time of purchase, grant to the administering corporation a note and second mortgage interest in the housing unit, payable upon resale, in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) (i) which note shall not bear interest and may be forgiven at the rate of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) per year and retired after ten (10) years and (ii) which second mortgage shall (a) provide for a twenty-year term; (b) contain a right of first refusal at a price equal to a bona fide written offer of a third-party to purchase

the unit; and (c) contain an agreement to pay to the administering corporation one-half of any profit upon resale of the unit, including a sale upon exercise of said right of first refusal. In the event the purchaser secures a purchase mortgage loan under the Florida Homeownership Assistance Program pursuant to section 420.5088, Florida Statutes (1989), as may be amended, or should the administering corporation be selected as a sponsor under the aforesaid program, the second mortgage interest set forth in this subsection may be denoted as a third mortgage interest in the housing unit.

- (c) It shall be the obligation of the administering corporation to exercise the right of first refusal and second mortgage interest to ensure that upon resale of the housing unit, the resale purchaser is also a low income household, or, if unable to exercise the right of first refusal, to apply funds received upon satisfaction of such second mortgage interest to the development or preservation of other affordable housing units within a designated redevelopment area. Any such funds not so applied within five (5) years of receipt by the administering corporation shall be remitted to the City of Cocoa.

Policy 3.3.1.2: The City shall provide information and incentives, such as minimum lot sizes, minimum floor areas, setbacks, and residential land uses to the private sector to ensure that sufficient housing of various types, designs sizes, and costs are constructed.

Policy 3.3.1.3: The City may allow single family dwellings on non-conforming infill lots for affordable and workforce housing development projects.

Policy 3.3.1.4: The City shall continue to provide incentives to developments with affordable housing and workforce housing units. These incentives could include, but are not limited to, increased densities; a streamlined permitting processes to prevent delays; flexible development regulations; and deferment, subsidy and/or waiver of building permit fees, impact fees and inspection fees.

Objective 3.3.2: Adequate Sites for Housing. The City shall provide adequate sites ensuring housing availability for the very low-income, low-income, and moderate-income

households, as well as sites for mobile and manufactured homes for the present and future population of the City.

Policy 3.3.2.1: The City shall affirmatively support proposals for affordable housing that are consistent with the use and density provisions of the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 3.3.2.2: The City shall support amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and associated land development regulations that permit affordable housing proposals provided such locations; avoid concentrations of low and very low income households; provide full urban services and facilities; are environmentally sensitive; and would create a livable and supportive environment.

Policy 3.3.2.3: The City shall discourage concentrations of affordable multi-family housing in economically and socially distressed areas.

Policy 3.3.2.4: The City shall continue to require that sites for affordable housing have access to the following facilities, services and/or activity centers:

- Potable water and central wastewater systems;
- Employment centers, including shopping centers which accommodate stores offering household goods and services needed on a frequent and recurring basis;
- A collector roadway or higher; and
- Public parks, recreation areas, and/or open space systems.

Policy 3.3.2.5: The City shall encourage the provision of affordable housing in infill/redevelopment areas by providing incentives. The City shall also encourage the development of affordable housing in the Community Redevelopment Areas.

Policy 3.3.2.6: The City shall ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that regulatory techniques and review procedures do not create barriers to infill and affordable housing, when updating its land development regulations.

Policy 3.3.2.7: The City may, through the land development regulations, encourage the development/redevelopment of housing that will integrate a variety of housing types and styles in all neighborhoods.

Objective 3.3.3: Housing Programs. The City shall seek to utilize, leverage and maximize federal, state, and local programs for the present and future population of the City.

Policy 3.3.3.1: The City will continue to support and seek new funding from appropriate federal, state and local sources for rehabilitation of rental units and rental assistance for low income families.

- Policy 3.3.3.2:** The City will continue to provide housing assistance to income eligible residents by allocating resources received through federal and state housing grants.
- Policy 3.3.3.3:** The City will continue to explore and consider alternative sources of money and initiatives to improve housing stock and availability. In addition, the City will coordinate with the County to advertise the availability of any funds to the public. These funds will ensure the availability of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable units to low income residents.
- Policy 3.3.3.4:** The City shall leverage available funds with federal, state and local subsidy programs to assist the largest number of units possible.
- Policy 3.3.3.5:** The City shall annually monitor affordable housing projects receiving financial grant assistance or incentives to ensure units are in compliance with affordability requirements.
- Policy 3.3.3.6:** The City shall partner with the Brevard County Finance Authority in the use of tax exempt financing to provide mortgages at below market interest rates to first time homebuyers.
- Policy 3.3.3.7:** The City shall promote awareness among the elderly and low-income rental families regarding housing programs which are available to assist them in Cocoa.
- Policy 3.3.3.8:** The City may participate in and support the activities of private not-for-profit Community Development Corporations (CDC's) and Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's) to provide technical assistance and housing information to City and County constituents. Such support may include, but not limited to, financial and/or technical assistance and alternative development standards and code requirements.
- Policy 3.3.3.9:** The City shall continue to support affordable housing programs and maintain communication with non-profit organizations to promote neighborhood pride, identity, organization, and communication between citizens and City government.
- Policy 3.3.3.10:** The City shall continue to provide assistance to outside agencies offering counseling referral services for families and individuals seeking affordable housing opportunities.
- Policy 3.3.3.11:** The City shall participate in and support activities that discourage the use of predatory lending practices. Such support may include, but not be limited to, the provision of financial and or technical assistance to community groups that specialize in education and outreach against predatory lending.

Policy 3.3.3.12: The City shall prioritize projects that utilize public/private partnerships to produce housing and provide support of services to low income families. These programs could include, but not limited to, financial counseling, day care, health care, and transportation.

Policy 3.3.3.13: The City shall participate in Regional Planning Council initiatives directed toward educating local governments about new techniques, especially those programs which promote affordable housing.

GOAL 3.4: The City shall continue encouraging and assisting in the conversion of undue concentrations of public rental housing in the City of Cocoa to affordable home ownership. Where public housing remains, the City shall seek to ensure it's decent, safe, and sanitary for the present and future residents of the City.

Objective 3.4.1: Cooperative Relationship. The City shall establish an ongoing cooperative working relationship with the Housing Authority of the City of Cocoa to provide for and preserve public housing and assist in the conversion of undue concentrations of public housing to affordable home ownership.

Policy 3.4.1.1: The City shall promote educational opportunities and provide training and technical assistance to lower income public housing tenants in preparation for home ownership.

Policy 3.4.1.2: The City shall assist the Housing Authority of the City of Cocoa and/or public housing tenants in seeking financial incentives to facilitate the purchase of owner-occupied housing and/or, to support the cost associated with converting public housing units to owner-occupied or mixed-income units.

Policy 3.4.1.3: The City shall pursue housing resources for low income residents other than public housing or Section 8 tenant-based assistance.

Policy 3.4.1.4: The City shall leverage affordable housing resources in the community through the creation of mixed-finance housing, and encourage and facilitate the conversion of public housing units to owner occupancy.

Policy 3.4.1.5: The City shall pursue financial resources to assist in the rehabilitation of public housing units, or when beyond repair, the demolition and replacement of dilapidated units to new owner-occupied units.

GOAL 3.5: The City shall promote non-discrimination and ensure fair and equal housing opportunities for residents of the City of Cocoa.

Objective 3.5.1: Fair Housing. The City shall remain committed to affirmatively further fair housing.

Policy 3.5.1.1: The City will fully comply with and require the private sector to comply with the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the local Fair Housing Ordinance. All housing development and redevelopment activities

shall be compatible with and further the purpose of the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

- Policy 3.5.1.2:** The City shall conduct periodic reviews and amend as necessary all land and housing development regulations to ensure compliance with Federal and State laws on accessibility.
- Policy 3.5.1.3:** The City shall continue to periodically review the local Fair Housing Ordinance and update as necessary.
- Policy 3.5.1.4:** The City shall continue to support local fair housing enforcement organizations such as the Fair Housing Continuum.
- Policy 3.5.1.5:** The City shall encourage public housing agencies to start a counseling program to help housing choice voucher recipients to locate housing outside of poverty concentrated areas.
- Policy 3.5.1.6:** The City's housing programs shall encourage banks and other lending organizations to operate in areas that are underserved and to provide services to underserved populations.

GOAL 3.6: The City shall encourage the provision of housing opportunities for people with special needs such as the homeless, the elderly, and the physically and/or mentally disabled.

Objective 3.6.1: Group Homes and Foster Care Facilities. The City shall assist the private sector to ensure adequate sites are available in residential areas, or areas of residential character, for group homes and foster care facilities licensed or funded by the Florida Department of Children and Family Services to satisfy the current and future residents of the City.

- Policy 3.6.1.1:** The City shall continue to review, and revise where necessary, land development regulations to ensure adequate sites in residential areas are provided for special needs populations by means of group homes and foster care facilities licensed or funded by the State of Florida or other such means as shall be deemed appropriate by the Community Development Director.
- Policy 3.6.1.2:** The City shall continue to provide, in the Land Development Code, adequate location standards for sites in residential areas or areas of residential character for community residential homes, including group homes, retirement homes, and foster care facilities, in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes. These facilities should be located in a variety of urban and rural locations, as appropriate.

Objective 3.6.2: Special Needs Housing. The City shall assist the private sector to create additional units and preserve existing units for households with special needs to satisfy the projected demand of dwelling units of various types, sizes, and costs.

Policy 3.6.2.1: The City shall continue to support a variety of public and private housing initiatives for affordable housing for special needs populations in areas in close proximity to shopping, public transportation, health services, schools, infrastructure availability, and employment opportunities.

Policy 3.6.2.2: The City shall continue to support organizations which provide shelter and related services to the special needs and homeless population. Such support may include but not be limited to financial and/or technical assistance and alternative design standards and code requirements.

Policy 3.6.2.3: The City shall continue to support organizations, which assist special needs, elderly and handicapped citizens in finding decent, accessible, and affordable housing. Such support may include but not be limited to financial and/or technical assistance and alternative design standards and code requirements.

Policy 3.6.2.4: In an effort to address problems of housing for lower income elderly residents and other households with special housing needs, the City shall allow for the placement of retirement communities and elderly care facilities in areas of residential character as long as they are designed in a manner that is compatible with the character of the neighborhood.

Objective 3.6.3: Homeless. The City shall continue to seek supportive housing opportunities for the homeless and those at risk for homelessness, and ensure that Cocoa and other governments and agencies are working jointly to address these needs.

Policy 3.6.3.1: The City shall remain an active participant in the Brevard County Continuum of Care Coalition to address homelessness in the City.

Policy 3.6.3.2: The City shall designate appropriate areas for providing services for the homeless.

GOAL 3.7: The City shall promote opportunities for the creation of housing and infill development within the City.

Objective 3.7.1: Infill Development. The City shall continue to promote infill housing development by supporting alternative development standards where appropriate and feasible.

Policy 3.7.1.1: The City shall provide and retain residential land uses at varying densities and locations through comprehensive land use planning and land development regulations for affordable housing to satisfy the projected demand of dwelling units of various types, sizes, and costs by 2020, which will be needed to house the City's anticipated population through the planning horizon.

Policy 3.7.1.2: The City shall ensure adequate sites are correctly planned and zoned to accommodate the projected housing growth, including low and very low income housing, and mobile homes.

Objective 3.7.2: Vacant Land Inventory. The City shall continue to monitor and inventory vacant and underused residential land and provide this information to housing developers to stimulate the development of infill housing.

Policy 3.7.2.1: The City shall survey vacant and underutilized land within the Heart of Cocoa and Diamond Square Redevelopment Area to determine which land can be declared surplus and/or publicly acquired to be made available with conditions sufficient to stimulate the development of affordable and infill housing.

Objective 3.7.3: Land Development Regulations. To the greatest extent possible, the City's land development regulations shall not contribute to increased housing costs.

Policy 3.7.3.1: The City shall conduct periodic reviews of existing land development regulations and consider before adoption, policies, procedures, ordinances, regulations, or plan provisions that may have an impact on the cost of housing.

Policy 3.7.3.2: The City shall continue to review and assess the structuring of impact fees in relation to City housing goals and shall make recommendations for amendments to the appropriate codes if necessary.

Objective 3.7.4: Permitting Reviews. The City, where appropriate, may provide priority consideration and permitting review for affordable and infill housing projects in an effort to reduce costs and delays in the permitting review process.

Policy 3.7.4.1: The development review and permitting process for affordable and infill housing shall be streamlined through an ongoing review of the process and the adoption of a more efficient regulatory and permitting process.

Policy 3.7.4.2: The City shall continue to reduce building permit and inspection fees for City-sponsored projects that preserve or produce affordable housing.

Objective 3.7.5: Community Revitalization. The City shall continue to support the revitalization of its Florida Enterprise Zone, its designated Florida Brownfield Area, the Diamond Square Redevelopment Area and the Heart of Cocoa Area concentrating on issues such as crime, economic development, and affordable housing.

Policy 3.7.5.1: The City shall support reasonable efforts to make these areas economically diversified neighborhoods with housing, shopping, public transportation, health services, schools, and employment opportunities for all.

- Policy 3.7.5.2:** The City shall encourage new construction of single family homes for moderate and upper income households.
- Policy 3.7.5.3:** The City shall encourage neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing, and homeownership in these areas by implementing programs and regulations that promote a wide variety of housing types, sizes, and prices.
- Policy 3.7.5.4:** The City shall continue to pursue environmentally-related grants, such as Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Grants, to advance the cleanup, restoration and redevelopment of City designated Brownfields areas and sites.
- Policy 3.7.5.5:** The City shall encourage an overall mixture of housing tenure by actively encouraging owner-occupancy within these areas.
- Policy 3.7.5.6:** The City shall promote design standards that encourage image improvement opportunities in the neighborhood.
- Objective 3.7.6: Economic Development.** The City shall seek economic solutions to address affordable housing.
- Policy 3.7.6.1:** To address the needs of the residents of affordable housing, the City shall explore and seek partnerships with the private and public sectors for the creation of employment and training opportunities.