

**City of Valdosta Fair Housing Committee**

**Monthly Meeting - Minutes**

**Thursday, September 13, 2012 – 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

City of Valdosta -City Hall Annex, Multi-Purpose Room

**Members Present:**

Pastor David Adams, Rachel Bradley, Dr. Cynthia Scurry-Brooklin, Clay Haddock, Robert Jefferson, Bill Love, Yolanda Robinson, Dr. Penelope Schmidt, Kelly Strozier, Herbert Williams

**City Staff Present:** Mara Register and Vanassa Flucas

The meeting was called to order by Vanassa Flucas at 1:37 p.m.

The meeting started with the election of officers. Members of the committee nominated Kelly Strozier and Dr. Penelope Schmidt for the position of Chairman of the committee. Ms. Strozier received five votes and Dr. Schmidt received two votes. Kelly Strozier was confirmed as the Chairman of the Fair Housing Committee. The membership nominated Pastor David Adams and Dr. Penelope Schmidt for the position of Vice Chairman of the committee. Pastor Adams received six votes and Dr. Schmidt received two votes. Pastor David Adams was confirmed as the Vice Chairman of the Fair Housing Committee.

The next order of business on the agenda was to compile a list of the agencies and organizations the committee desired to come before the committee. The purpose of the agency/organization presentations before the committee will be to gather information and data relevant to addressing the impediments listed in the AI. The requests for presentations were divided into the four areas of in the report: Banking, Finance and Insurance; Socioeconomic; Neighborhood Conditions; and Public Policy. The following table lists the agencies/organizations who will be contacted to make presentations to the committee.

<b>Banking, Finance, Insurance</b>	<b>Socioeconomic</b>	<b>Neighborhood Conditions</b>	<b>Public Policy</b>
Bank of America	Department of Labor	City of Valdosta – Code Enforcement	City of Valdosta – Mara Register
Cash Prosperity	Technical Colleges	Board of Realtors	SGRC – Corey Hull
A Subprime/Predatory Lender	Telemon Corp	Property Management Association	Lowndes County – Jason Davenport Planner
Each Major Bank/Credit Union	Chamber of Commerce	Churches	City of Valdosta – Land Dev – Matt Martin
Habitat for Humanity	Goodwill Industries	Community Centers	SGPEH – Transitional Housing Program
Federal Lending Rep for SBA, VA, USSA, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac	Valdosta Housing Authority	Group Workcamp – Richard Joyner	Shelter Plus Care & HOPWA
Each Major Insurance	LAMP	KLVB	J Quad Consulting

Companies in Area Allstate and State Farm			
SGMC – Indigent Care	Food Bank	Habitat for Humanity	
	Healthy Living Task Force		
	Industrial Authority		
	United Way		

After completing the list of potential presentations, the committee set the foundation for citizen participation. It was decided that before the agency/organizational presentations will be made to the committee, citizens from around the city will be asked to come to restate the barriers and needs present within the community. The committee decided on a multi-pronged approach to reaching the public. They would like to create and circulate a survey, have a public forum for comments and have individual meetings with small groups or individuals within the neighborhoods for community input. Rachel Bradley has been asked to help coordinate this effort.

The committee agreed on the meeting dates and times for the next year. The Fair Housing Committee will meet every second Thursday of the month, from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the City Hall Annex Multi-purpose Room. The subsequent meeting dates are as follows: October 11, 2012; November 8, 2012; December 13, 2012; January 10, 2013; February 14, 2013; March 14, 2013; April 11, 2013; May 9, 2013; June 13, 2013; July 11, 2013; August 8, 2013; September 12, 2013 and October 10, 2013.

Finally, before the adjournment of the meeting, the committee created the format for the citizens to be heard portion of every meeting. The last fifteen minutes of every meeting will be allotted for citizens to be heard. A sign-up sheet will be available at every meeting for citizens who wish to be heard to request three (3) minutes to speak before the committee. Since there were citizens present for this meeting, those who had a desire to speak, were given an opportunity to do so. Mr. John Robinson, Sr.; Mr. George Rhynes and Mr. Lindsey Mobley made the following comments to the committee:

*Robinson – Mr. Robinson wanted to make the committee aware he has filed a federal complaint regarding some of the actions of the City. He wants this committee to know the City has problems and wants the committee to work hard to solve them. He further stated that he would form litigation, if necessary, if they don't do the right thing.*

*Rhynes – Mr. Rhynes informed the committee the funds the City receives are due to the fact we have low-income people. He asked that we please try not to block out the people and in the process, don't forget the citizens.*

*Mobley – Mr. Mobley informed the committee he has advocated on these issues for many years and we should get our input from the ground up. The committee is not truly representative of the citizens it says it represents, and he will fight for certain members to be placed on this committee.*

Without any further discussion among the committee members or citizens, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.