

Personal Testimony

Hi my name is Roberto Garcia and I am translating Angelino Montealegre's testimony.

I live in a mobile home that is on the south side of Richmond on Richmond Hwy. My mobile home is in very bad condition, the roof leaks when it rains, and the windows do not seal shut so when it rains water also comes in through the windows. There is no Air Conditioning/ Heater in my home either so when it gets cold my kids very often get sick as well as myself, when my kids get sick we have to keep them home and take care of them in the same place that got them sick.

I want to remind all of you that I am not the only person living in these conditions. Hundreds if not thousands of people are living in similar if not worse conditions than myself.

I want to know why the funds we won last year are still not in use. What is the holdup!!

Last November, a member of our community came and gave testimony about this problem. Someone here gave her a number to call and said that would help her with her problem. She gave many in the community the same number and when we called we were told that since the city had not released the funds they could not help us.

We have many members of our community that live in worse conditions than myself. Because of their fear of speaking out to public officials they are not up here to share their stories. They are human beings like you and I and they deserve to live in a dignified and just space. They can not do that if you all do not release the funds that we won!!

We are here because we want you guys to release the funds that we won in order for our community to start receiving the help they need and deserve.

Sec. 12-46. - Disposition of revenues derived from expiration of partial exemptions from real estate taxation and from certain sales of tax delinquent properties.

- (a) Beginning July 1, 2021, when payments are made to the City of real estate taxes arising from (i) the phased reduction occurring on or after July 1, 2020, of the amount of any partial exemption in accordance with Chapter 26, Article V, Divisions 3 (§§ 26-408.1—26-408.11), 9 (§§ 26-579—26-589), and 10 (§§ 26-590—26-599) of this Code and with former Sections 98-132, 98-135, and 98-138 of the 2004 Code and (ii) the full taxation of formerly partially exempt real estate due to the expiration or termination of such partial exemptions in accordance with Chapter 26, Article V, Divisions 3 (§§ 26-408.1—26-408.11), 9 (§§ 26-579—26-589), and 10 (§§ 26-590—26-599) of this Code and with former Sections 98-132, 98-135 and 98-138 of the 2004 Code, on an annual basis, the Director of Finance shall credit the difference between the full taxation amount and the partial exemption amount as of the date of such reduction, expiration, or termination to a special reserve assigned to support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund established by Section 16-51 each year after such expiration. The City Council may appropriate funds from this reserve to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund established by Section 16-51.
- (b) Beginning July 1, 2019, and subject to appropriations by the City Council, the Director of Finance shall credit to a special reserve assigned to support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund established by Section 16-51 up to \$1,000,000.00 of all proceeds from the sale of tax delinquent properties through the program administered by the Office of the City Attorney that remain after all costs of administering such program have been paid.

(Code 2004, § 42-45; Code 2015, § 12-36; Ord. No. 2014-125-143, § 1, 9-8-2014; Ord. No. 2018-238, § 1, 2-11-2019; Ord. No. 2020-214, § 1, 1-14-2021)

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Sec. 16-51. - Created.

There shall be created a fund identified as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The fund shall be funded through annual appropriations made by the City Council and such other sources of revenue as the Council may appropriate thereto from time to time. The purpose of the fund shall be to aid in meeting the needs of low and moderate income households in the city by providing loans and grants to for-profit and nonprofit housing developers and organizations for the acquisition, capital and other related costs necessary for the creation and preservation of affordable rental and owner-occupied housing in the city in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 15.2-958.5.

(Code 2004, § 58-101; Code 2015, § 16-51; Ord. No. 2008-114-98, § 1, 5-27-2008; Ord. No. 2012-155-128, § 2, 7-23-2012; Ord. No. 2021-285, § 1, 11-8-2021)

State Law reference— Creation of a community revitalization fund for the purpose of preventing neighborhood deterioration, Code of Virginia, § 15.2-958.5.