City of Albany
Housing Affordability Task Force
May 30, 2017 Meeting Minutes
200 Henry Johnson Blvd
Albany, NY 12210

Attendees: Nelia Quezada, Erin Reale, Robert Magee, Steve Longo, Lillian Moy, Sarah Reginelli

Next Meeting: TBD

To Do List for Next Meeting

1. Rob will draft forum agenda, circulate.
2. Rob will finalize and publish the next report

Minutes

Announcements

- Valerie

Tenant Forum June 8, 2017

- The first tenant forum is happening on June 8, 2017 at 200 S Pearl Street.
- Nelia drafted a flier that we can distribute. Erin will distribute to the HFA listserv
- The meeting format will depend on attendance. If it’s large enough we’ll adopt a modified break out format similar to what we used at the first public workshop. If it’s smaller, we’ll have a less structured conversation between HATF members and tenants.
- We’ll make an effort to get participants to fill out the surveys.
- It was agreed that some time should be given to the positive effects of affordable housing so that we can better understand how it useful, rather than focusing solely on obstacles to affordable housing.
- We confirmed that we’ll have a sufficient number of task force members at the forum.
- The format, generally, will focus on three specific questions. The preliminary questions agreed on by the Task Force were
  - Transition Costs – what expenses do tenants face when trying to secure affordable housing?
Informally, the Task Force has seen a wide range and variety of such costs, from security deposits to the purchase of new furniture or equipment (such as refrigerators).

- Availability of information. How to tenants find out about affordable housing? The Task Force is interested to know whether tenants receive accurate information about affordable housing opportunities.

- Recommendations. The Task Force will ask what recommendations the tenant attendees have about making affordable housing easier to find and maintain.

- Steve & AHA will provide snacks. Rob will bring water.

- We’ll consider establishing an RSVP system for the next tenant forum.

- Rob will bring materials for break out groups (poster boards, markers, etc.)

**Report**

- The Task Force discussed the report. Though it is more scaled back than we had originally envisioned, the Task Force was in agreement that it could be published as an update on our activities.

- Rob will go through it again to add some results of member’s research and then proceed with publication.