



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BOARD FORMS STEERING COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

According to a 2016 "Point in Time" survey, more than 800 people living in Wake County were homeless. More than 150 of those residents were children, and nearly 80 were veterans. While the number of people and families who need affordable housing is increasing, the supply of affordable housing in Wake County is not growing fast enough to meet the demand.

During its Sept. 19 meeting, the Wake County Board of Commissioners established the Wake County Steering Committee on Affordable Housing to address this issue. The steering committee will help ensure county resources and investments align with the needs of the community.

"The creation of this steering committee is a strong step toward improving access to affordable housing in our community," said board Chairman Dr. James West. "We can make a greater impact together than we can alone. Bringing together key players from the public and private sectors will allow us to leverage resources and expertise to improve the lives of some of our most vulnerable residents."

The steering committee, which will be led by Commissioner Jessica Holmes, will produce a 20-year affordable housing plan that:

- Defines affordable housing within Wake County;
- Compiles and analyzes all existing affordable housing efforts in Wake County;
- Identifies gaps, proposes solutions and presents methods for increasing and preserving the affordable housing stock in Wake County;
- Determines the county's role in the overall investment of affordable housing; and
- Links actionable steps to the Board of Commissioners' goals and the Wake County Transit Plan.

"I have a vision for affordable housing in Wake County, and as the leader of this steering committee, I will work diligently to make it a reality," said Commissioner Holmes. "Our residents and their families need reliable and consistent affordable housing options, and I look forward to collaborating with the steering committee members to make strong progress

on this important issue."

The commissioners will appoint up to 30 community leaders and county employees to the steering committee. It will meet monthly for one year and deliver a strategic report to the board before October 2017.

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