

## **Huntington Township Housing Coalition**

by Roger Weaving Jr

The Huntington Township Housing Coalition is a group of Faith-based, civic, and business organizations that come together as volunteers to create an environment conducive to creating more affordable housing in the Township of Huntington, NY. We started over 20 years ago at the prompting of the Chamber of Commerce, who saw that a lack of affordable housing was affecting the ability of the businesses in town to hire good people competitively.

Education about the issues surrounding affordable housing is one of our primary missions. We recently published our Huntington Housing Horizons 2030 (<a href="https://huntingtonhousingcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/HTHC\_200329\_Huntington-Housing-Horizons\_2030.pdf">https://huntingtonhousingcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/HTHC\_200329\_Huntington-Housing-Horizons\_2030.pdf</a> ), which looks at the town's Horizons 2020 master plan and examines what progress has been made since it was written in 2008. We educate the public, by conducting panel discussions and talks. We are available to come to any group to explain current issues. As a 501(c3) organization we do not endorse candidates, but we do offer to educate the town board and town board candidates about the need for affordable housing.

Recent successes include changing the C6 law to require 20% affordable units in all developments of apartments above stores, and amending the rules governing accessory-dwelling units to give owners more flexibility with their homes. We were strong supporters of Highland Greens on Ruland Road, Avalon Bay in Huntington Station, and the yet-to-be-built Matinecock Court. Projects for 2021 include examining the definition of affordable in the C6 law as written, seeking funding assistance for people who want to create accessory dwelling units in their homes, and collecting the personal stories of people who need affordable housing so we can present them to people in power who may be isolated from those in need during the pandemic.

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