



TOWN OF ARLINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Housing Plan Implementation Committee

Dear Arlington Neighbors,

Arlington has traditionally been a relatively economically diverse community, but this diversity is disappearing. Rents and home prices are now out of reach for long-time and prospective residents alike. More than 11,500 of our neighbors (around 27%) spend over one-third of their income to live in Arlington. At Special Town Meeting beginning on November 16th, we have the chance to take a small step toward preserving what economic diversity remains, and to create new opportunities. At this difficult time in our country, when racial and economic injustice is on full display, we hope you will join us in supporting the creation of an affordable housing trust fund ("AHT") through Article 8.

An AHT creates a board whose job is to look for and fund affordable opportunities, work cooperatively with other Town and outside funding sources to support those opportunities, and seek approval from the Select Board where the situation warrants additional oversight. Other towns in metro Boston have used AHTs to great success. 115 municipalities in Massachusetts have adopted affordable housing trusts and 77% of those communities have also adopted the Community Preservation Act. For example, using their affordable trust funds, Andover recently bought a single-family home and converted it to an affordable homeownership opportunity and Bedford preserved the affordability of a ninety-six unit rental property to ensure permanent affordability.

An AHT would help the Town act nimbly to steer its own development, condo by condo, house by house, and building by building. The AHT would be governed by seven voting Trustees appointed by the Select Board. For further information about Article 8, you can find additional information on the Housing Plan Implementation Committee's website: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/boards-and-committees/housing-plan-implementation-committee>.

Give our neighbors the chance to stay in Arlington, new neighbors the chance to join us, and our Town the ability to control its own future. Please contact your Town Meeting Members and ask them to adopt Article 8 to establish the Arlington Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Thank you,

Members of the Housing Plan Implementation Committee,
Benjamin Bradlow
Pam Hallett
Karen Kelleher
Jonathan Nyberg
Michelle Shortsleeve
Patricia Worden