

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.1
(ID # 14535)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, February 09, 2021

FROM : SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ:

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ: Adoption of Resolution No. 2021-043 Support of The We Will Lift Regional Pledge for Housing Opportunity, Fourth District [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-043, Support of the We Will Lift Regional Pledge for Housing Opportunity.


ACTION:


Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Supervisor 4th. District 2/4/2021

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Washington, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: February 9, 2021
xc: BOS-Dist. 4, HHPWS

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$0	\$	\$0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 2020/2021	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: [CEO use]

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Lift to Rise is a local collective impact organization based in Palm Desert working toward a future where all Coachella Valley families are healthy, stable, and thriving. Their work brings together community and institutional leaders to collaboratively solve the underlying causes of poverty and inequality in the region. Years of deep data analysis, in partnership with the USC Price Center for Social Innovation, and community listening have revealed that housing instability and a lack of economic mobility are primary drivers of struggle for Coachella Valley families. They organize two cross-sector collaborative action networks (CANs) with over 50 public, private, and institutional partners to address these root-cause issues and radically change the landscape of opportunity for everyone who calls the Coachella Valley home.

In 2018, Lift to Rise and County of Riverside Economic Development Agency and Housing Authority partnered to become a pilot site for the Connect Capital Initiative hosted by the Center for Community Investment in order to respond to the critical need for more affordable housing in the Coachella Valley. This transformative partnership has laid the groundwork for how to effectively move a multi-jurisdictional, cross-sector housing agenda in the Coachella Valley and is indeed informing work across the County. Through this non-traditional approach to community investment and affordable housing, partners have learned to work together to break down silos, enabling projects to come forward in jurisdictions which had not seen recent development of affordable housing – including the cities of Indian Wells and Palm Springs.

A critical piece of this collaborative work has been the assembly and analysis of a shared pipeline of regional affordable housing projects and opportunities. By understanding the funding gaps in the pipeline, the CANs learned that the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency is not the only cause of stalled projects in the region. The pipeline needs catalytic investment and regulatory interventions to produce affordable housing units. To this end, in late 2020, Lift to Rise approached the County seeking a letter of support from the County for a State Budget proposal for the Coachella Valley Regional Housing Catalyst Fund (the Fund). The Fund, administered in partnership with the County of Riverside, the Low Income Investment Fund, and the Rural Communities Assistance Corporation, is a pivotal, regional investment solution designed to catalyze the development of 2,000 units of affordable housing in the Coachella

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Valley, and serve as an initial investment structure that can be expanded across the County over time. The County did provide a letter of support for the budget proposal.

This collaborative work, while initially piloted in the County's 4th District, provides a model that can be expanded throughout the County. Lift to Rise has built the convening capacity to engage difference stakeholders—from cities to developers, healthcare actors, and grassroots community advocates—county-wide, with sometimes competing priorities, to align around a shared agenda and concrete goals. Across the next 24 months, Lift to Rise will use this capacity to build the infrastructure to expand this effort county-wide. Its initial work, already underway, includes partnering with the County to inventory the housing pipeline in Western Riverside County, and to identify pipeline and capacity gaps. Lift to Rise operates at an ambitious level of change –across 10 municipalities; the relationships, lessons, and investments gained from this effort in the Coachella Valley will allow the work to scale sustainability across the county.

The We Will Lift Regional Pledge for Housing and Opportunity is an opportunity for the County to signal its support for this regional approach and plan to increasing housing stability and economic mobility. In January 2020, Lift to Rise and its partners launched an ambitious, two-year action plan that uplifts the Coachella Valley's story, builds local strength, and catalyzes change by:

1. Advancing a community-valued **pipeline** of investable projects that will result in 2,000 units of affordable housing in the next two years.
2. Working with city, county, and state governments to implement affordable housing-friendly **policies** that will facilitate the planning, approval, and construction of affordable housing units in the shared pipeline.
3. Driving a regional **investment** vehicle to invest in and catalyze the development of affordable housing across the region.
4. Building **pathways to economic mobility** and security for residents experiencing poverty.

By taking the pledge, the County will communicate its support for this shared, concrete, and forward-thinking plan. The Pledge requests that a representative from the County's Department of Housing Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solution actively participate in this effort and assist with aligning policies, practices, and resources in a way that advances this plan, recognizing the following opportunities for alignment:

- Use our expertise to provide technical assistance to support the implementation of the CANs' priorities.
- Contribute detailed and up-to-date, publicly-available information on affordable housing projects and development opportunities to the shared pipeline of projects.
- Comply fully with all state and federal housing rules/requirements.
- Provide opportunities and/or incentives for (and not unduly constrain) affordable housing development in our community.

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- Advance pro-affordable housing policies in our communities, including those that prioritize favorable zoning and land use, decrease production timeframes, and reduce construction and development costs.
- Collaborate with other jurisdictions and agencies to align policy and remove barriers to affordable housing.
- Coordinate and align funding opportunities with the regional fund to advance unit production.
- Express our support of the Coachella Valley Housing Catalyst Fund and investments proposals (i.e. letter of support).

Lift to Rise is seeking a pledge from all 10 local jurisdictions and dozens of local partners in an effort that will strengthen this regional effort by showing the strength and depth of the region's coordination and by:

- Helping attract and leverage regional investment (by coordinating and organizing demand for capital)
- Increasing the scale of the impact of our investments
- Enabling jurisdictions to align County policy, practice, and resources with the regional effort, increasing efficiency and maximizing potency
- Enhancing public understanding and opportunity for resident participation

Staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-043. County Counsel has reviewed and approved as to form, the attached Resolution No. 2021-043.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Approving this item will have a positive impact on the citizens and businesses of Riverside County by bringing much needed affordable housing to the region.

Additional Fiscal Information

There is no impact upon the County's General Fund; the County's contribution to this effort will be in the form of staff participating in collaborative meetings to promote this effort.

Attachments:

Resolution No. 2021-043

2
3 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-043

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5 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
6 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE SUPPORTING THE WE WILL LIFT
7 REGIONAL PLEDGE FOR HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

8
9 WHEREAS, one in two individuals in the Coachella Valley earn at or below 200% of the federal
10 poverty line; and

11 WHEREAS, wages in the Coachella Valley are half of what they need to be to afford the Fair
12 Market rent for a median two-bedroom apartment; and

13 WHEREAS, more than half of Coachella Valley renters are housing cost-burdened, or paying
14 more than 30% of their monthly incomes on rent, and one third of renters pay more than half of their
15 monthly incomes on rent; and

16 WHEREAS, people of color in the Coachella Valley face higher rates of rent-burden, eviction, and
17 are more likely to experience homelessness; and

18 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the economic well-being of families in
19 the Coachella Valley; and

20 WHEREAS, Lift to Rise is a local collective impact organization working to achieve a future
21 where all Coachella Valley families are healthy, stable, and thriving; and

22 WHEREAS, Lift to Rise and a cross-sector network of partners have developed a plan to achieve
23 increased housing stability and economic mobility by:

- 24
- 25 • Advancing a community-valued pipeline of investable projects that will result in
26 2,000 units of affordable housing in the next two years,
 - 27 • Implementing affordable housing-friendly policies that will facilitate the planning,
28 approval, and construction of affordable housing units in the shared pipeline,
 - Driving a regional investment vehicle to invest in and catalyze the development of
affordable housing across the region,

