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MEDIA RELEASE
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Mayor Maddox Issues Executive Order to Create Student Rental Housing Task Force

Reporter's Note: Mayor Maddox has limited media availability today. If you'd like to interview him, please call Deidre Stalnakar at 205-248-5700 by 11 a.m. The executive order is attached.

Tuscaloosa, Ala. – City of Tuscaloosa Mayor Walter Maddox today issued an executive order to create a task force to study the City's student rental housing market.

“The recent boom of new student housing developments has produced a great deal of questions and concerns from all corners of our community,” said Maddox. “It’s critical the City receive and review comprehensive data and input from experts to examine it thoroughly.”

The task force will consist of 16-20 members appointed by various local organizations. Members will examine the student rental housing market, planning, zoning and other regulatory frameworks and infrastructure needs.

The mayor requests that the task force submit and present to the mayor and City Council findings and recommendations by Tuesday, Nov. 5.

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State of Alabama)
City of Tuscaloosa)

EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE MAYOR

Executive Order Number: 2013-001

To: Tuscaloosa City Council
 John McConnell, Director of Planning and Development Services
 Persons and Organizations which are Herein Granted Appointing Authority

Date: June 26, 2013

Regarding: Student Rental Housing Task Force

By the authority vested in me by the applicable provisions of the laws of the State of Alabama, including but not limited to Ala. Code §11-44B-7 (1975), pursuant to which the Mayor of the City as the Chief Executive Officer has the general supervision and control of all other officers and the affairs of the City, and pursuant to all applicable resolutions and as otherwise provided by law, I, Walter Maddox, as Mayor do hereby order and direct as follows:

There is hereby created a Student Rental Housing Task Force, to consist of the following members:

1. Two members appointed by the Mayor.
2. Two members appointed by the Tuscaloosa City Council President.
3. Two members of the City of Tuscaloosa Planning Commission, to be appointed by the Planning Commission.
4. One member of the City of Tuscaloosa Zoning Board of Adjustment, to be appointed by the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
5. One member of the City of Tuscaloosa Historic Preservation Commission, to be appointed by the Historic Preservation Commission
6. One member appointed by the President of the University of Alabama.
7. One member appointed by the President of Stillman College.
8. One member appointed by the President of Shelton State Community College.
9. One member appointed by the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama.
10. One member appointed by the Tuscaloosa Association of Realtors.
11. One member appointed by the Home Builders Association of Tuscaloosa.
12. One member appointed by Alabama Center for Real Estate.
13. One member appointed by Tuscaloosa Neighborhoods Together.
14. The Chairperson of the Student Rental Housing Task Force may, in his or her discretion, appoint additional members to make the total membership of the Task Force up to 20 members, with each such appointment subject to approval by a majority of the Task Force.

The purpose of the Task Force shall be to study, analyze, and advise the Mayor and City Council regarding the following matters:

- A. Current and future student rental housing markets in Tuscaloosa, especially in regard to whether the market is becoming overly saturated, and whether the City can or should take measures to address housing trends.

- B. Planning, land use, zoning, and other regulatory frameworks that will facilitate orderly development of student rental housing.
- C. Infrastructure needs to accommodate student rental housing growth.

John McConnell, as Director of Planning and Development Services, will organize the first meeting and provide continual technical and logistical support to the Task Force. Additional City departments will participate as requested by the Task Force. The Task Force will establish its own rules of procedure, elect its own Chairperson and Vice-chairperson, appoint committees and subcommittees as it deems proper, determine meeting schedules, and take such other actions it deems appropriate to fulfill its mission. A majority of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum for purposes of formal Task Force action, but the failure of a quorum to attend any particular meeting shall not prevent the meeting from being conducted for informational purposes. Task Force is encouraged to call upon experts to elicit their input and recommendations and is encouraged to examine how other similar cities have addressed these issues.

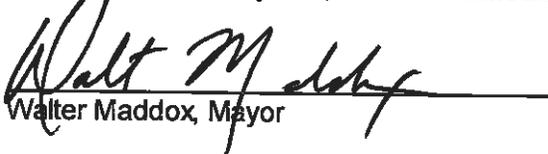
Meetings of the Student Rental Housing Task Force shall be conducted in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Law, including the public notice provisions. Minutes of each meeting shall be kept and shall become public record in the same manner as meetings of the City Council are made public. The Task Force shall have discretion to determine the means and manner that it will receive public comments.

The Task Force is requested to submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council by November 5, 2013. The Task Force may, in its discretion, allow concurring, dissenting, and alternate viewpoints to be included in the report.

Implementation:

All Departments of the City and their respective employees to whom this Executive Order applies shall forthwith implement the same in accordance with its terms and requirements. Nothing contained in this order shall relieve a person from any requirement to obtain a license or other authorization in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This order is not intended to conflict with, supersede, or contradict any lawful ordinance or resolution duly enacted by the City Council. This Order does not create any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the City, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

So Ordered from City Hall, effective immediately.


Walter Maddox, Mayor