

- As the City Manager in Winooski, Welcome!
- Winooski prides itself on being an affordable community for all of our residents. As the most densely populated City is northern NE and the most diverse City in Vermont, we want to ensure there is a secure home for all who want to live in the City. So, I'm here to talk with you about two priorities:
 - Funding VHCB
 - Continuing AHS funding for the Innovative Community Outreach Team in Winooski, South Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Shelburne and Williston
 - Affordability and Safe Healthy Connected People are key policy priorities for our City Council.
- 1. **The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board** was founded in 1987 with two goals – to create affordable housing for Vermonters, and to conserve and protect Vermont's agricultural land, forests, historic properties, etc. By statute, VHCB is supposed to receive 50% of the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) revenues. This year, the Governor is proposing to fund VHCB at \$9.8M (a \$1.05 M cut from last year), and more than \$7M less than what they should be getting by statute. Advocate that you reinstate and consider raising this funding.
- A few fun facts
 - 53% of our rental units are subsidized affordable homes
 - 72% of renters in Winooski qualify as low income (below 80% AMI)
 - There is more work to be done
 - Right up the block is Casavant Overlook – a true mixed income development 39 units with 27 subsidized affordable.
- As you know, the way we achieve these affordable housing goals is to (1) partner with organizations to subsidize construction of affordable units and (2) build new housing
- Organizations like VHCB, VHFA, and Champlain Housing Trust
- We believe that every dollar VHCB invests in housing, leverages another \$8-\$10.
- Another fun fact: 61% of Winooski residents rent. Reverse of the VT trend
 - Winooski is partnering with CHT to develop a perpetually affordable homeownership option (something that is hard to come by) on Malletts Bay Ave. Without additional VHCB funding, this project will be threatened.
- With our State-wide housing shortage and need for additional workers, it is imperative that state-wide housing funding be right-sized.

- **Community Outreach Team** – innovative program in partnership with the Howard Center to embed Community Outreach workers in our Police Departments.
- Address the critical needs of our neighbors in mental health or substance abuse disorder crisis.
- Provide the lowest level most appropriate services to keep our neighbors safe in their homes and productive members of our community.
- Over 100 of our Winooski neighbors have been served by this program in the last nine months.
- Our Police Officers benefit from the tool
- Last year AHS and the Legislature recognized the need for such a program and supported it with an appropriation of \$163k. We request that this be continued next year.

Contact information:

Jessie Baker

City Manager

City of Winooski

jbaker@winooski.vt.org

802 655 6410