

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
25 January 2010

Contact: Jean Spratlin
(706) 613-3031

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY SEEKS
CANDIDATES FOR VISION COMMITTEE

(Athens, GA) The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County is seeking qualified candidates to fill vacancies on the Vision Committee which is an important component of Human and Economic Development's (HED) Citizen Participation Plan. It is composed of 10 people representing housing, economic, and related community development disciplines and residents of the two neighborhood revitalization areas: East Athens and the Hancock Corridor. Members will be appointed from both the private and public sectors (business, non-profit, and/or community advocacy) of the community that represent interest in community development.

The term of office of members of the committee shall be three years. In order to achieve staggered terms, initial appointments shall be: three members for one year; three members for two years; and four members for three years.

Applicants must be Athens-Clarke County residents and registered to vote in Athens-Clarke County. The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, February 10.

Applications can be obtained from the Clerk of Commission's office in Room 204 of City Hall or from the ACC website: www.athensclarkecounty.com. For more information, please call Jean Spratlin, Clerk of Commission at 613-3031.

January 2010

Thank you for your interest in upcoming vacancies for the Vision Committee.

An application must be completed and submitted by Wednesday, February 10.

The Mayor and Commission is tentatively scheduled to interview applicants the afternoon/night of Monday, February 22. This will be the only date for interviews. After the deadline for receipt of applications, you will receive a letter assigning your interview time. If you will be out of town or otherwise unavailable on this date, let us know at the time you submit your application.

Appointments are tentatively scheduled to be made at the Mayor and Commission meeting of Tuesday, March 2. You will receive a letter from Mayor Davison following the date of this meeting.

Please call 613-3031 with any questions.

Thank you,

Jean Spratlin
Clerk of Commission

JS/da

10. Other comments or information.

11. I have been informed and understand the obligation and commitment required by this position.

Signature

Date

VISION COMMITTEE

MEMBERS: 10 (approved by Mayor and Commission)

TERM: 3 years

MEETING INFORMATION FOR 2010:

- **WHEN:** on or around September 14 to review Annual Report
- **WHERE:** 375 Satula Avenue
- **TIME:** 10:00 am
- **AVERAGE LENGTH:** 2 hours

MAJOR DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The mission of the Vision Committee is to advise Human and Economic Development (HED) during the Athens-Clarke County Consolidated Plan development process. The Athens-Clarke County Consolidated Plan is a five-year strategic plan that requires annual updates. These updates are known as Annual Action Plans. The Annual Action Plans outline CDBG and HOME funded projects.

SPECIAL SKILLS/EXPERTISE/INTERESTS:

- Understanding of the basic principles of housing and community development planning
- Understanding of Athens Citizenry and demographics
- Economic development and job creation experience
- Construction and repair of single-family housing
- Experience with providing public services to low and moderate income citizens
- Experience working with at-risk youth
- Grant management experience
- Historic preservation experience
- Understanding of public infrastructure needs

The Vision Committee:

Engages with staff to identify emerging community stressors that may be resolved using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Reviews goals and strategies to test the alignment in addressing community stressors

Evaluates CDBG applications to ensure that applications appropriately meet Consolidated Plan goals

Meets periodically with staff to review (semi-annually- January and September) agency performance reports to measure grant recipients achievement of goals

Process:

- The Vision Committee meets two to three times a year in four-hour sessions to review CDBG proposals. HED summarizes the applications and delivers them to the committee for their review prior to meeting. Committee members receive a one to two-page proposal summary of each application.
- HED staff presents application summaries to the Vision Committee for their comments and after discussion the members then “rate” the proposal. Members assign a numeric value for the proposed program or project representing the community’s need for the project and the perceived capacity of the agency to deliver the product proposed.
- Proposal summaries do not include budget materials. The Vision Committee does not make budget decisions or offer recommendations to staff regarding the amount of funding to recommend.
- Comments from the Vision committee are the comments of individual committee members and are not reflective of any consensus on behalf of the committee as a whole. The ratings in the summaries are an average based on individual member’s ratings.
- HED then prepares funding recommendations for the Mayor and Commission and presents them at a work session prior to submission of an agenda item report that identifies all CDBG and HOME funding recommendations.
- Citizens may offer suggestions and comments at the Agenda Setting Session and at the Public Hearing where the Commission votes on the funding recommendations. The Mayor and Commission reserve the right to accept, modify, or reject the recommendations.