



You are reading the most important email I have sent since you elected me in 2022. At tomorrow's Blueprint meeting we have an opportunity to make a big impact on our community's affordable rental housing crisis. This issue is personal to me and the main reason I ran for office.

When I was a kid, my dad came down with a rare nervous system disorder that he recovered from physically but never recovered financially. Following that medical crisis, my parents struggled to keep us in our home through bankruptcy, car repossession, and many payday loan cycles. In the end, they lost the home and moved into a two-bedroom apartment to start over again.

This is the core reason that I ran for office. Decades after my family struggled to keep a roof over our heads, the situation is worse than ever. As of 2020, 14,000 families in Leon County do not have affordable housing. They work hard to provide for their family, yet they still pay over half their monthly income for housing. This puts them and their kids in the same situation I know too well.

The Blueprint infrastructure program has the biggest pool of funds to invest in infrastructure in our community. The discretionary amounts available in City and County budgets just won't touch the scope of the problem.

For years, my parents did everything they could to keep us in our home while letting go of everything else. Every two weeks, my dad picked us up from school, and we went to the payday loan place next to Walmart. He would hand over his paycheck to cover the loan from two weeks before - plus fees and maybe 300% APR interest. I wonder how many times he did this before he got to keep his paycheck on the day he got it. All of this to make sure our house payment went through.

We all know parents who try to hide their stress and worry from their kids, but I know kids are smart and I know the look on a parent's face when they worry all the time - how are they going to keep a roof over our head?

I am here to tell you and the 14,000 families facing this in Leon County that it is not your fault. You are not a failure because the housing market and local government have not taken enough action to ensure your family has access to stable housing that you can afford on an average income.

We won't get another opportunity like this. Now is the time to decide that having housing for our families is infrastructure. It is the foundation that stable families are built on, that stable and healthy communities are built on, and it is what a successful City and County are made of.

If you want to use your Blueprint sales tax funds for building affordable rental housing, let the Blueprint Board know!

1. Email all County Commissioners

2. Email all City Commissioners

You can view [the item here](#) if you want to see the details. If approved on Thursday, we would start the process by holding two public hearings before a final vote to allow a project to be added to the infrastructure project list.

Florida statutes limit our use – so we can't give away money to builders to build developments and keep the profits of home sales.

If you've made it this far, you see why this is so important to me and many of our neighbors. I hope you will let us know if you support this change.

-David

Blueprint General Business Items February 29, 2024, 3 pm @ City Hall

- [Informational Item Outlining Steps for Restructuring the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency](#)
- [Approval of Resolution 2024-01 Authorizing Issuance of the Series 2024 Bond Sale and Approval of a Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Amendment](#)
- [Acceptance of the Fairgrounds Master Plan](#)
- [Consideration of the Airport Gateway Project Scope and Widening Springhill Road to Four Lanes](#)
- [Evaluation of a Request for Infrastructure Surtax Revenues for Florida A&M University's Bragg Memorial Stadium Renaissance Project](#)
- [Consideration of Initiating a Substantial Amendment for Expansion of the North Monroe Gateway Project](#)

- [Consideration of Initiating a Substantial Amendment for Affordable Housing Land Acquisition](#)



Leon County Commission, District 5 | 301 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

301 S. Monroe Street 5th Floor
Tallahassee, FL | 32301 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma®