

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR HOMELESS, AT-RISK and AGING VETERANS

Jim Scanlon, Chairman

Mission Overview

The Committee on Affordable Housing remains committed to addressing veteran homelessness by developing **safe, affordable housing on American Legion-owned properties** across New Jersey. Our efforts focus on long-term sustainability, dignity for veterans, and strengthening local Post infrastructure.

Key Accomplishments

1. Multi-Site Housing Development Initiative

1. Active development underway at six locations:
 1. Hoboken
 2. South Amboy
 3. Montclair
 4. Emerson
 5. Gloucester City
 6. Westfield
 2. Each project integrates:
 1. Affordable veteran housing units
 2. Renovation or rebuilding of existing Post homes
 3. Community-centered design and services
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2. Project Planning & Execution

1. Project Managers established at each site with defined timelines and deliverables
 2. Strategic planning includes phased development models to accelerate occupancy
 3. Zoning, site assessments, and early-stage approvals progressing across multiple municipalities
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3. Strategic Partnerships

1. Continued collaboration with:
 1. Veteran service organizations
 2. Housing authorities
 3. Private developers and funding partners
 2. Ongoing discussions with The American Legion national headquarters to align local initiatives with national veteran housing priorities
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4. Hoboken Project – Phase II

1. Phase I groundwork completed
2. Phase II groundbreaking announcement forthcoming
3. Project positioned as a **flagship model** for replication statewide

5. Community Engagement & Fundraising

1. Fundraising initiatives launched to support construction and development
2. Highlight event:
 1. April fundraiser at the Westfield Armory in support of the Westfield project
3. Increased visibility and community buy-in at the local level

6. Recognition & Advocacy

1. Committee leadership and members recognized for impact in the veteran housing space
2. Expanded advocacy efforts to elevate awareness of veteran homelessness and solutions

Impact to Date

1. Advancing the creation of **permanent supportive housing opportunities** for veterans in need
2. Strengthening American Legion posts through infrastructure reinvestment
3. Building scalable models for veteran housing development across New Jersey

Challenges & Focus Areas

1. Navigating local zoning and regulatory requirements
2. Securing sustainable funding streams for full project execution
3. Maintaining project timelines across multiple sites

Next Steps

1. Initiate construction phases at priority locations
2. Announce and execute Hoboken Phase II groundbreaking
3. Expand fundraising and grant opportunities
4. Continue strengthening partnerships at state and national levels
5. Develop a replicable framework for expansion beyond initial six sites

Closing Statement

The Committee's work reflects the core values of the American Legion - **service, commitment, and community leadership**. Through coordinated effort and strong partnerships, we are making measurable progress toward eliminating veteran homelessness in New Jersey while revitalizing our posts for future generations.