



MOBILE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ADDRESS ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 13TH

Dale Pfeiffer, 107 Providence Street, Mobile, AL 36604 (Introduce Reba)

Thank you, Mayor Stimpson, President Small, City Council members, and staff for this opportunity to share about the mission of Driftwood Housing.

OUR MISSION IS TO BUILD SHELTERS AND HOMES FOR THE CHRONICALLY HOMELESS WHERE THEY WILL RECEIVE CARE AND SERVICES IN A SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

Driftwood Housing is a nonprofit construction and property management corporation. We build affordable housing for our displaced neighbors living outside. All tenants will pay monthly rent ranging from \$300.00 to \$500.00 to help cover community costs.

Our all-electric micro house shelters, also called wooden tents, are under 120 square feet and include a heating and air conditioning unit, a bed, a microwave, and a refrigerator. Some units will have a front porch. The cost to build a micro house is approximately \$7,000.00. Most transitional housing villages in America use the micro house model. We've learned from Portland that it's best practice to group no more than 30 units in a campus-style configuration with shared facilities, such as an outdoor kitchen, a laundry room, bathrooms, and showers. We currently have funding to build several micro houses. Seattle provided the plans.

Our all-electric tiny houses have plumbing and are under 400 square feet. These units will meet the criteria for Housing First's permanent housing referrals. These units will include everything that the micro houses include, with the additions of a full bathroom and kitchen.

HUD defines the chronically homeless as "being continuously homeless for a year or more." We concur and would add to that the philosophy of Community First! Village in Austin that most homeless people have experienced a family crisis and become permanently maligned from their core family.

Tenant care and services will come from healthy neighbors, volunteers, recovery groups, and local physical and mental health service providers. Some of these service providers have already committed to visiting our communities. We will also provide transportation for tenants to needed services through missionals who live along-side the tenants.

Safety is extremely important to us; therefore, all campus-style communities will be gated.

Many cities have established campus-style communities that are housing the displaced. During our 3-day visit in Austin, TX, for the Community First! Village Symposium, we formed a Community First Gulf Coast Alliance with like-minded attendees from Florida and Mississippi.

We have many excellent homeless shelters and service providers in the City of Mobile, but we believe that a campus-style community with transitional and permanent housing with wrap-around services will help our displaced neighbors become stable and productive.

We hope that the City of Mobile will help Driftwood Housing achieve our stated mission. Our greatest need today is property where we can build villages and launch our multi-faceted services.



Sample Micro House Transitional Village

We know that like Robert Frost who concluded in his famous and our favorite winter poem, Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, that “we have promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep.”

Driftwood Housing Project, Inc.

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GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/84497aa4>