

FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION NEWS

My Retirement: The Florida Housing Coalition Will Install A New Ceo On January 1, 2023

I am delighted to share with our membership that the Florida Housing Coalition is presently undertaking a national search for our next CEO; my last day will be December 31, 2022. This comes as no surprise to our staff. I have been succession planning for over two years with new hires and modifications to our organizational chart to lift up the phenomenal younger talent and leadership on our professional staff. At the Florida Housing Coalition, we pride ourselves on modeling best practices for nonprofits, and we believe in building capacity to reach greater heights through growth and succession planning.

It seems like yesterday when I walked into the Embassy Suites in Fort Lauderdale for the Florida Housing Coalition's (at that time, the Florida Low Income Housing Coalition) statewide annual conference in summer of 1991. I was blown away by the passion of the participants and the expertise of the presenters. Most memorable was the brilliance of Mark Hendrickson, then the Executive Director of the Florida Housing Finance Agency (now known as the Florida Housing Finance Corporation). "How do I get involved with this organization," I asked Claudia Freese, the woman who founded the Coalition in 1982. Next thing I knew I was the board president and remained in that position until January 2015 when I became CEO.

My zeal for the Florida Housing Coalition is clear to everyone who knows me. I cannot imagine a more outstanding organization, from its mission, culture of caring, commitment to professional perfection, and statewide impact. Indeed, the Florida Housing Coalition, while operating primarily in Florida, clearly has a national impact. We have provided a model to the nation for a dedicated revenue source for affordable housing, best practices certification for community land trusts, and public policies for preservation and equitable development.

There are three major constituents that comprise the Coalition: 1) our staff and board; 2) our members and recipients of our consulting, training, and technical assistance; and 3) our funders and partners. Working with each of these groups every day is nothing less than joyful. We see the impact we make daily in the success of those we assist and the improvement in public policies attributable to our work. Preserving affordable housing in perpetuity is one of the most crucial public policies we have promoted through our **Community Land Trust Institute** (founded in January 2000) and the funding allocation systems used at the local and state level. Our statewide, regional, and local work addressing homelessness, disaster resilience and recovery, and our **Center for Racial Equity** (founded in 2021) have already exceeded our high expectations.

If I were to list all that the Coalition does that fills me with pride and joy, this letter would go on for pages. Suffice it to say, I will be forever grateful for having been at the helm of this magnificent organization for so long. I am retiring because I love the Coalition. It's hard to imagine that the Coalition could be even better than it is today - but it will be. I would not be leaving if I had a single doubt about the ever-increasing impact and greater heights yet to be realized by the Florida Housing Coalition.

Sincerely,



JAIMIE ROSS, CEO AND PRESIDENT
FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie A. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Florida Chamber of Commerce enlists the Florida Housing Coalition as its Housing Goal Leader for the 2030 Blueprint

The Florida Chamber has a housing goal in its 2030 Florida Blueprint plan to reduce the number of cost-burdened households to no more than 10% by the year 2030 and has enlisted the Florida Housing Coalition to join this statewide effort. We recognize that it will take a significant and coordinated effort by public and private entities to achieve measurable progress. Our approach is to encourage funding and land use policies supported by cross-sector collaboration to ensure a sufficient supply of affordable housing.

Towards that end, we will be holding a two-hour Forum at our upcoming conference on the 2030 Blueprint and the tools we have developed that Chambers can use to advocate for affordable housing in their community – 2030 Affordable Housing Blueprint Toolkit located at: www.flhousing.org/2030_blueprint_partner. Join us in August at our Conference and explore the toolkit to learn how you can help increase the supply of affordable housing in Florida.



New Coalition Board Members

The Florida Housing Coalition is proud to announce the appointment of two distinguished members to our Board.



KATHY HAZELWOOD
SR. COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER AT
SYNOVUS



CARMEN D. SMITH
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF
CHIPOLA AREA
HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY



DAYNA LAZARUS

New Coalition Staff Member: Dayna Lazarus

The Florida Housing Coalition is pleased to announce the addition of Dayna Lazarus to its Technical Advisory staff. Dayna has over a decade of experience in community organizing and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from USF. She won several professional and academic fellowships and scholarships, and earned graduate certificates in Sustainable Transportation and Community Development.



TAMARA WEST

New Coalition Staff Member: Tamara West

The Florida Housing Coalition is pleased to announce the addition of Tamara West to its Technical Advisory staff. Tamara has previously worked for the Polk County BoCC and also as a Finance & Grants Manager for Hillsborough County. Tamara is a graduate of the University of South Florida and graduated with her Masters in Public Administration from Troy University.