



# Tools and Strategies for Increasing Housing Production Virtual Conference

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022, 3:00–4:30 P.M. | VIRTUAL ZOOM CONFERENCE

## Discussion with Revere and Lynn

- **MODERATOR:** Whitney Demetrius, Director of Fair Housing Engagement, *CHAPA*
- Lor Holmes, *Revere Housing Coalition*
- Reuben Kantor, Chief Innovation Officer | Office of Innovation and Data Management, *City of Revere*
- Aaron Clausen, Principal Planning Director, *City of Lynn*
- Jeff Weeden, Assistant Director of Planning and Development, *Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development*
- Lilian Romero, *Lynn Housing Coalition*

## Discussion with Essex, Greenfield, & Other Communities

- **MODERATOR:** Lily Linke, Municipal Engagement Program Associate, *CHAPA*
- Dana Menon, Town Planner, *Town of Essex*
- Anne Cameron, *Essex Housing Coalition*
- Susan Worgaftik, *Housing Greenfield*
- MJ Adams, Director of Community & Economic Development, *City of Greenfield*

DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US FOR SESSION THREE!

September 29th: *MBTA Communities Multifamily Zoning Implementation*



## PANELIST & SPEAKER BIOS



### LOR HOLMES

As a young adult, Lor worked as a Boston school bus driver and community organizer before earning a master's degree in Community Economic Development. Driven by a passion for environmental and social justice, sustainable economic development, and democratic models for community ownership, Lor started Roxbury's first micro enterprise program. As founding director at HarborCOV (Harbor Communities Overcoming Violence) in Chelsea, she worked with immigrant communities to develop the country's first permanent housing and economic development center for families affected by domestic violence. Lor currently serves as Community Lead for the Revere Housing Coalition and as Board President for Women Encouraging Empowerment, working to empower immigrant and refugee women and their families.



### REUBEN KANTOR

Reuben Kantor has served for the last 6 years in the Office of Innovation and Data Management (OIDM) for the City of Revere – the last 2 years as the Chief Innovation Officer, and prior to that as the Director of OIDM. His core work involves using technology and systems change to make government work better for everyone, including and especially those who haven't traditionally been able to access government. A recent innovating project Reuben joined was to co-lead the city's efforts at enacting Revere's first Inclusionary Zoning ordinance. He worked closely with the Revere Housing Coalition, Revere Mayor's Office, Revere Office of Planning and Community Development, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, to develop and propose a thoughtful, data-based and financially-justified ordinance to the Revere City Council.



### AARON CLAUSEN

Aaron has been a practicing planner for over 15 years with a broad range of experience among the various planning disciplines; land use, housing, transportation, and economic development among, others. Throughout his career he has worked in the municipal setting from small to mid-sized cities. Aaron has served as the Principal Planner for the City of Lynn since early 2020, where the City Planner position has been vacant for over two decades. His role is to assist the City in enhancing capacity, understanding, and execution of City Planning processes. He seeks to ensure meaningful engagement with the residents, businesses and other stakeholders throughout the City in formulating planning documents and carrying out policy implementation. Aaron approaches planning processes from a comprehensive perspective, seeking to integrate actions that meet a wide-ranging set of goals.



### JEFF WEEDEN

Jeff Weeden has been serving the Lynn community with the Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development (LHAND) since 2010 and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Planning and Development. In this capacity, Jeff has been awarded and oversees various federal and state grant programs that represent over \$20 million of resources to the residents of Lynn. Most recently he facilitated the drafting and passage of the City's first housing production plan. Jeff is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, where he earned his BA in Political Science. He is the past president of the Camp Fire North Shore Board of Directors, serves as treasurer for the Friendly Knights of St. Patrick Scholarship committee, a member of the Lynn Rotary Club, and serves as a member of the board of trustees for the Lynn Classical Alumni Association.



## LILIAN ROMERO

Lilian Romero has been LEO's CPO for the past six years. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from Northeastern University and completed a Management certificate program through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Prior to working at LEO, she worked as the Regional Director at the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). During her years at DTA, Lilian was responsible for overseeing offices in the South, Boston and North regions of the state. In 2012, Lilian was awarded the Manuel Carballo Governor's Award in recognition of serving as a key contributor to the Western Disaster management team for the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). In 2018, she was recognized by the City of Lynn for her years of service to the community. Lilian is an Advisory Board member at North Shore Community College and served as an adviser for the Lynn Housing Production Plan.



## DANA MENON

Dana Menon is currently the Town Planner for the Town of Essex. Prior to this position she has worked in the planning departments of Ipswich and Salem, Massachusetts. Dana is also a Registered Landscape Architect, and has planned and designed parks and open space while working for private landscape architecture firms and the City of Somerville. She has a Masters in Landscape Architecture from Cornell University, and received her BA from Mount Holyoke College.



## ANNE CAMERON

Ann is an Essex resident and serves on the Essex Housing Coalition, is the current chair of Essex's Strategic Planning Committee and co-chair of the Manchester Essex Regional School Building Committee. Ann is a Senior Product Manager at EBSCO Information Services in Ipswich.



## SUSAN WORGAFTIK

Susan Worgaftik is a housing activist working in the City of Greenfield. Now retired, she formerly worked as the Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and, prior to moving to Greenfield, as the Director of the Dorchester Center for Adult Education, a non-matriculating program that used neighborhood-run and -developed education as a community organizing tool. Susan is a member of two activist organizations in Greenfield: Greening Greenfield, a community sustainability organization, and Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR), an organization continuing the political work begun by Bernie Sanders' campaigns for President. In 2018, both organizations recognized that housing issues were of great concern in Franklin County and, as our situation is somewhat different from those of eastern Massachusetts, it needed to be explored so that appropriate community actions could be developed.



## MJ ADAMS

MJ Adams, AICP, has worked in the field of housing and community development since the late 1980's. With experience working at the local, regional, and statewide levels in the public, non-profit, and private sectors during her career, MJ holds a unique perspective in bringing these sectors together to create and improve the quality of housing and communities in Massachusetts. After graduating from UMass-Amherst with a Masters in Regional Planning, her early professional experience as the Principal Planner for the City of Chelsea and then a stint with Mass Housing Partnership led to a deep appreciation of housing challenges faced in the urban core. After moving back to western Massachusetts to raise her family, she served in a variety of housing and economic development positions with regional housing organizations and as executive director of Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity for 12 years. She currently serves as the Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Greenfield.