

# Current Housing Status in DeForest, WI

Abigail Lowery, Village Trustee Chair of DeForest Housing Authority

## A Very Brief History

DeForest Housing Authority formed in mid 1980s Initially, three buildings for lower income public housing 1991: Jefferson Square owned by Village and managed by a private company 2001: Ownership and management transferred to the DeForest Housing Authority

## **DeForest HA Summary**



Lower Income Public Housing – Three buildings

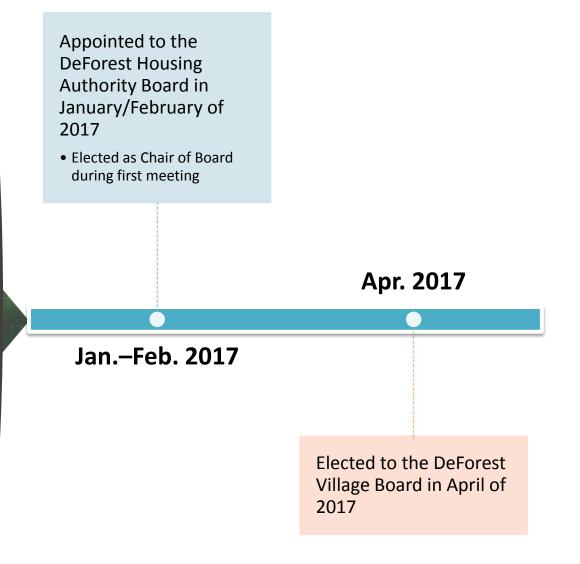
36 units total, mostly one bedroom apartments



#### Jefferson Square

62 units total Affordable condos 2 BR/1 Bath or 2 BR/ 2 Bath

## My Introduction to Housing Issues in DeForest



## April 2017 to August 2017

- Observed Dane County Housing Authority Chair Daniel O'Callaghan and consultant Tom Landgraf present about acquiring and rehabbing a privately owned property in DeForest
- Ongoing discussions with Community Development Director about housing and workforce needs
- Talked with school social worker and administrative assistant about local homelessness and housing issues

#### Fall 2017-UniverCity

#### • Fall semester focus

• Spring semester focus

 Upcoming fall 2018 focus

## 2018 Thus Far

Attendance at WHEDA and WAHA Conferences

Private developers approaching village with interest in lower income housing or section 42

Proposed a housing market study at a recent village board meeting

Contention between the Village and the DeForest Housing Authority in regards to streets within Jefferson Square



# Next Steps?

- Continue my learning process
- Possibly pursue ideas suggested by UniverCity students
- Possible coalition with local stakeholders
- Consider any ideas I learn about here