



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

Appointed to the
DeForest Housing
Authority Board in
January/February of
2017

- Elected as Chair of Board during first meeting

Apr. 2017

Jan.–Feb. 2017

Elected to the DeForest
Village Board in April of
2017

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

