



HASSINA ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

Onondaga County Legislature

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York, 13202
Phone: 315.435.2070 • onondagacountylegislature@ongov.net • www.ongov.net/legislature

Housing and Transportation Citizens Advisory Board Housing Summit Minutes – March 31, 2026

Legislators Present: Chairwoman Watts, Leader Hernandez, Mr. Knapp, Ms. Block, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Eriksen, Mr. Burtis, Mr. Bush

The sign-in sheet is on file with the Clerk

Chairwoman Watts called the 6:00 p.m. housing summit to order.

1. Welcome and Introductory Comments – Chairwoman Watts

- Chairwoman Watts welcomed participants and legislators; recognized legislators present
 - Explained the purpose of the evening is to hear from municipal representatives across Onondaga County regarding local housing pain points and potential solutions
 - Noted that the summit would follow a creative problem-solving format, with emphasis on solving; each table had a designated note taker
- Chairwoman Watts described the housing crisis facing Onondaga County
 - Cited severe shortages, overcrowding, rising home purchase costs, limited rental options, and deteriorating housing conditions with no alternative options available
 - Noted examples, including residents pre-approved for \$350,000 loans, unable to find available homes; some municipalities also contending with vacancy
 - Noted projections indicating a need for approximately 2,300 to 3,500 new units per year across the six-county area for the next decade; cited anticipated growth driven by Micron and the semiconductor industry
 - Noted that housing developers are being attracted to neighboring counties offering a more favorable development environment, resulting in a loss of property tax revenue and economic development impact for Onondaga County municipalities
- Chairwoman Watts acknowledged the following municipalities in attendance:
 - Town of DeWitt
 - City of Syracuse
 - Town of Salina
 - Village of East Syracuse
 - Village of Liverpool
 - Village of Fayetteville
 - Village of Camillus
 - Town of Manlius
 - Town of Cicero
 - Town of Elbridge

- Town of Lafayette
- Town of Spafford
- Village of Baldwinsville
- Village of Manlius
- Village of Marcellus
- Village of North Syracuse
- Village of Tully
- Town of Onondaga
- Town of Geddes
- Town of Camillus
- Village of Skaneateles
- Town of Lysander
- Town of Van Buren

2. Facilitated Breakout Group Discussion and Proposed Solution Prototyping – Small Groups of Municipal Leaders with Facilitators

- Participants engaged in facilitated small group discussions; identified and defined local housing problems, brainstormed solutions, and selected one solution to develop into a viable proposal

3. Breakout Group Share-outs – Spokespeople from Breakout Groups

- Spokespeople from each breakout group presented proposed solutions to the full group

4. Closing Comments and Next Steps – Chairwoman Watts

- Chairwoman Watts announced the launch of the Housing and Transportation Citizens Advisory Board
 - Noted that the Legislature passed a resolution authorizing its establishment in March 2026
 - Board to be formally constituted in April 2026 and operate through the end of the year
 - Noted that the evening’s summit served as the first listening session for the Advisory Board
 - Proposals and ideas generated would serve as the starting point for the Board’s work
 - Follow-up gathering is planned later in 2026 for municipal representatives to return and review where the ideas from this summit were taken by the Advisory Board’s working groups
- Chairwoman Watts introduced Darrell Buckingham as co-chair of the Housing and Transportation Citizens Advisory Board
 - Mr. Buckingham works actively in the housing arena through CNY Community Foundation on lead and related issues
- Chairwoman Watts noted that the Advisory Board will include up to 40 members drawn from a broad range of stakeholders, including:
 - Developers
 - Realtors
 - Tenant rights advocates
 - Landlords
 - Nonprofits
 - For-profit organizations
- Neighborhood listening sessions are planned across the county, with sessions anticipated in the north, south, east, and west portions of the county, as well as within the City of Syracuse
- Chairwoman Watts thanked legislative staff and interns for their work in organizing the summit

The summit was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hassina Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "A".

HASSINA ADAMS, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature