Vision 2031

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) envisions an open, tolerant and just society in the year 2031. It will be a society founded upon, sustained by and nurtured through humanity’s interdependence. Communities will have a center and a heart and will be the result of an environmentally friendly, managed-growth infrastructure. Recognizing the fundamental importance of that interdependence, NAHRO believes that positively affecting the lives of individuals at the neighborhood level in communities across the country can ultimately result in positive societal changes that will benefit all mankind. Our dream begins in the local neighborhood.

Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods will be seamless with unique character, built to a proper scale and offer a broad range of housing choices that represent the diversified needs of citizens. Affordability will be achieved by the active involvement of all three sectors of society public, private and non-profit organizations working together and separately to develop, own, and manage housing available to low- and moderate income families. Homes, whether new or remodeled, will have unique design character and be well constructed and maintained. They will be energy-efficient, accessible to the elderly and handicapped, and will have suitable amenities. Individuals will assume personal responsibility for their family members and property and be good neighbors.

With the assistance of government and other partners, neighborhoods will provide for public welfare with social, educational, health, artistic and recreational services that are affordable and accessible. Community centers will provide recreational opportunities for children and adults, life-span educational programs, after school programs and vacation activities. Resident interaction will be facilitated through deliberate design that facilitates livability, with features including porches, sidewalks, green spaces, parks and public lighting. Neighborhoods will be cohesive, safe, secure and crime- and drug-free with accessible public safety services.

Neighborhoods will be supported by viable and socially responsible commercial enterprises. Land use policies will permit housing and retail establishments to coexist. Neighborhoods will have adequate employment opportunities with living wages available either within the neighborhood or nearby via convenient, affordable public transportation. Neighborhoods will link with other neighborhoods to form a community.

Communities

Community residents will be multigenerational and diverse, both economically and ethnically. They will live in desirable, attainable lifecycle homes, respect their neighborhoods and maintain their properties. They will enjoy physical accessibility in the community through public transportation, recreational village centers, sidewalks and bike paths. A mix of services for the elderly, children and disabled will be available.
Residents will find that their community is a healthy, beautiful, friendly, nurturing and safe environment, and they will take pride in it.

Town centers will promote a sense of belonging to the community. They will be safe, clean and diverse with curb appeal. There will be town squares, open space, convenient public transportation and vehicular parking that promote resident interaction. Commercial buildings will have architectural character. There will be a vibrant mix of cultural activities and learning experiences.

Community leadership will be strong but compassionate, creative, courageous, honest, ethically responsible and transparent. It will engender confidence and trust among the citizens. The community will be sustained by a vibrant economy. There will be a sound mix and balance between commercial and industrial growth and community development.

**Society**

Society will be characterized by hope, passion, justice and equality. It will be a society with choices; a society that preserves the past and embraces the future. There will be reverence for life. Humanity will be seen as individual members assuming responsibility for their collective well-being. It will be a world where we respect each other by getting to know one another, talking with each other, socializing and, if we choose, worshipping with one another.

**Declaration of Interdependence**

Humanity is interdependent. Globally nations address common interests and concerns through treaties which cover issues like trade and commerce, finance, justice, healthcare, defense, immigration and the environment. Disaster recovery is provided globally by nations and supported by private citizens who make charitable contributions and volunteer their labor.

Local governments and private business are equally interdependent. Economic growth requires a well educated, adaptable and flexible workforce. That workforce requires suitable, affordable housing for employees at all economic levels. The workforce also requires educational and healthcare facilities, public services and a vibrant economy to support the community.

Interdependence is fundamental to successful communities. Neighbors working together and through civic groups, parent-teacher organizations and local governments address common concerns and solve problems. They shape their preferred future through community development.

Diversity is the key to healthy interdependence. Stereotypes and prejudices disappear when peoples of differing socio-economic circumstances and ethnicities live, learn, work
and play together. Diversity embraced within a neighborhood or community builds friendships and partnerships that enrich society.

Housing and community development are key to achieving Vision 2031. Families require the foundation and security of a safe, clean and affordable home to realize their potential. Children need a good home if they are to prosper and grow in school. Parents need a secure environment within which to raise a family, be productive members of society and enjoy life.

**NAHRO’s Bold Steps to Achieve Vision 2031**

NAHRO will foster Vision 2031 by promoting healthy interdependence in housing and community development at the neighborhood, community and societal levels. NAHRO’s mission in pursuit of this goal is to foster and stimulate the creation of housing that is affordable and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO, being a grassroots membership organization, will look to its associates, chapters and regions for input, guidance and recommendations concerning Vision 2031. It will ensure that the bold steps are implemented in partnership with regions, chapters and associates.

NAHRO will do this by ensuring that housing and community development professionals have the leadership skills, education, information and tools to serve communities in a rapidly changing environment. NAHRO will challenge local agencies to look beyond conventional programs and embrace both new opportunities and new partners. NAHRO will design, develop and provide a variety of educational and professional development materials including live and online seminars, conference sessions and certification exams. NAHRO will also make available information, analysis, best practices and news via its print and online publications.

NAHRO will advocate for appropriate laws and policies that are sensitive to the needs of the people served, are financially viable for our industry, are flexible, and promote local decision-making. NAHRO will make community building a priority issue on national and state levels. It will advocate for changes in how federal and state government programs are structured to develop resources for community development, and it will lead the way in securing dedicated sources of funding and resources for use by local decision makers in building better communities.

NAHRO will foster the highest standards of ethical conduct, service and accountability. It will facilitate ethics training. Ethics will be at the core of NAHRO’s decision making process. Decisions by NAHRO’s leadership will take into account and reflect a concern for the interests and well being of all stakeholders.

NAHRO will adhere to and promote excellence in design and construction, demonstrating that quality, affordable homeownership and rental homes are achievable. Emphasis will be placed on energy efficient, accessible and healthy homes with
appropriate amenities. Neighborhood cohesion will be fostered through multiuse developments comprised of retail, office and residential units. Shopping will be available locally with retail establishments that serve both the local neighborhood and the larger community. Community accessibility will be the result of well-planned sidewalks, bike paths, green spaces and convenient, affordable public transportation.

NAHRO will reach out to others who share a concern for the future of mankind. A forceful and continuous effort of political engagement, community organizing, and advocacy is needed to effect public policy and spending priorities. We will increase public awareness of our concerns and the diminishing safety net which is increasing the vulnerabilities of those we serve. We will share our Vision for 2031 with them. NAHRO will build interdependent partnerships with civic organizations, educational institutions and governments that have the foresight and will to make Vision 2031 a reality in America and around the world.

Adopted by the Board of Governors
March 13, 2006