

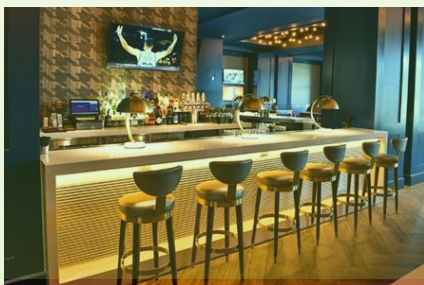
## Presidents Message

As I write this message it is hard to imagine that it has been a full year since we learned about pandemics and COVID-19. In the first few weeks of the pandemic my family sat down to the Passover holiday meal via Zoom, rather than gathering as we have done for generations. During Passover we normally end our meal with ancient words that translate to "next year in Jerusalem", but last year we also ended saying "next year may we be together". At that moment nobody was thinking that it would take over a year for this plague to pass, but last week we held our Passover Seder via zoom once again. While things are heading in the right direction, we're nowhere near normal yet.

Our Industry has struggled tremendously this year and recovery may not come as swiftly as it does for other businesses. While each of us has done everything possible to help our chapters, house corporations, national organizations and campus communities, the crushing difficulties of operating social organizations and communal housing amidst a global pandemic have played out for our organizations and among our colleagues. I know many of us have had moments of distress or are feeling drained; I hope that the Fraternal Housing Association has helped during this difficult time. Maybe it provided a resource, a connection, or just a little time to chat and relax with friends. I know that I have found value in the support network that we have built over the last few years. I encourage you not to hesitate to reach out via our email listserv or just to call one another. It has been amazing to see the openness, the spirit of collaboration, and the true friendships that we forge by being in this industry together. We look forward to seeing you soon. - **Rob**

## Save the Date!

It was greatly disappointing to cancel the Fraternal Housing Association Conference scheduled for September 19-22, 2020 at The Guesthouse at Graceland in Memphis, TN last fall. However, please mark your calendars for the 2021 FHA Conference scheduled for September 19-22, 2021 remaining located at The Guesthouse at Graceland. More information relating to registration, virtual and in-person attendance and topics for discussion will be coming in May, 2021.



### [The Guesthouse at Graceland](#)

3600 Elvis Presley Blvd, Memphis, TN 3811

\*Photos courtesy of The Guesthouse at Graceland



FRATERNAL HOUSING  
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## Newsletter

March 2021  
Volume 1, Issue 1

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### FHA Board

FHA President -  
Rob Derdiger,  
Esponda Associates Inc.

FHA Treasurer -  
Mandy Reymann  
Delta Gamma Fraternity  
Housing Corp

VP of Annual Conference -  
Michele Camarco  
Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority

## Legal Review: A Defeat in Bloomington, Indiana

All of us in FHA have been following the case of UJ-Eighty Corporation v. City of Bloomington that has been making its way through the Indiana court system. This is the case where both the trial court and Indiana Court of Appeals decided in favor of the plaintiff, a landowner who had leased its land and residential facility to a fraternity and then lost the appropriate zoning when that fraternity lost recognition from the University. Both courts stated that the City of Bloomington had unlawfully delegated zoning authority to Indiana University by tying local zoning regulations from fraternity and sorority facilities to University recognition.

In a 5-0 decision, the Indiana Supreme Court has now overturned the lower courts decision. The Court, in an opinion issued on February 23, 2021, states that the city did not delegate any authority but instead, through the regular legislative process, "defined fraternities and sororities based on their relationship with IU" similar to how the zoning of group care homes for mentally ill patients is based on licensure from the state. The court believes a municipality has the right to define certain land uses based on "relationships with relevant outside organizations".

The Court also stated, "IU's decision to recognize or sanction a fraternity may have had 'collateral effects' on land use in Bloomington, but that did 'not transform [its] quasi-judicial decision [to revoke its recognition of TKE] into an exercise of [Bloomington]'s legislative function.

It was not IU that decided whether UJ-Eighty or any other landowner violated Bloomington's zoning laws. Bloomington, through the BZA, ultimately decided if UJ-Eighty is unhappy with Bloomington's zoning laws or the BZA, it can seek change through the political process." You can read the entire opinion [here](#)

The Fraternity Sorority Action Fund has approved grants - both earlier this year and in previous years -for industry-wide research related to municipal zoning tied to university recognition. Research has shown that in North Carolina, for example, state law prohibits local zoning to differentiate between fraternities/sororities that have and do not have university recognition. NPC and NIC will be engaged in further discussion about how to advocate for the use of the North Carolina law as a model for other states.

**Dani Weatherford**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Panhellenic Conference



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## Newsletter

### FHA Board (continued)

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VP, Technology -  
Matt Higgins  
Richmond Property Group

VP, Communications -  
Cassie Sherry  
Alpha Delta Pi IHC

Ex-Officio Board Member -  
Mike Fouts  
Triangle Building & Housing Corp

## Coming Soon: FHA Website

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A new FHA website and communication tools are coming soon! As the association continues to grow and evolve we are upgrading our infrastructure. These new resources will become the permanent home for member communication, association information, data, projects and information for the very popular Fraternity Housing Association Conference. Look for the new website and communication tools later this spring!

## Update on PPP

The American Rescue Plan included an expansion of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to include a broader swath of 501(c) entities. Unfortunately, after consultation with the Small Business Administration, fraternities and sororities (their HQs, individual chapters, and house corporations) are ineligible for the expanded PPP.

Why? The SBA has long-standing rules in place that prohibit them from giving loans to organizations and businesses that artificially limit their access or membership. While there has been legislation pending to specifically allow our house corporations to be eligible (this was in the House and Senate versions of the RESTART Act), the American Rescue Plan was ambiguous in its eligibility definitions, leaving it to the SBA.

It is not expected that another COVID relief package will move until late summer, at the earliest, and if recovery is strong this spring/summer, there may not be another package offering PPP money at all. Sadly, it is unlikely fraternities and sororities will become eligible for the PPP.

The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act (CHIA) is expected to be re-introduced in the House. Hopefully, prior to the virtual Hill visits by the Fraternal Government Relations Coalition.

## The Unhousing of Greek Life: Chip Chip Chip Away

In 2020 social movements around the country inspired students to discuss how institutional racism had affected their college lives. Experiences within Greek life arose as a common point of strife and the Abolish Greek Life (AGL) movement was born. With the movement seeking an end to toxic fraternity and sorority culture of exclusion, sexism, racism, classism, hazing, and substance abuse, many of our campuses have been affected by the movement. One campus, Stanford University, took a different approach to solving issues associated with AGL by calling for the removal of the housing of Greek organizations.

In October of 2020 both the Undergraduate Senate and the Graduate Student Council passed resolutions encouraging Stanford to permanently unhouse Greek organizations. The thought is that by taking on Greek housing, Stanford's inequitable housing access, discrimination, racism, sexual violence, dangerous drinking, and unsafe behavior would all be resolved by removing Greeks from their facilities. While various actions and calls to remove Greeks from housing have happened for decades on Stanford's campus, this represented a novel and formidable housing approach by the student body as a whole.

With both organizations being part of the Associated Students of Stanford University (ASSU), the joint passage of the same resolution required it to be considered by the Faculty Senate. In February 2021, the Faculty Senate declined to take a stance on ASSU's resolution calling to permanently unhouse Greek organizations, citing lack of jurisdiction. The Vice Provost for Student Affairs responded to ASSU's frustration by clarifying that only administrators, and not the Senate, have jurisdiction over undergraduate residential life.

This instance is important because, while AGL has a voice on campus, the approach to solving the toxic culture of discrimination, racism, sexual violence and alcohol abuse wasn't a call to remove Greek life altogether. Rather, it was a call to remove Greek life from their facilities as a way to solve those issues. Overall, housing for Greek organizations are being chipped away on several fronts. While zoning issues are always at the forefront of our minds, "outside-the-box" attempts like at Stanford, and solving campus issues, could provide a visible template to challenge Greek housing everywhere.

**Cassie Sherry,**  
**Director of Housing**  
**Alpha Delta Pi International House Corporation**



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