



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-00683

Agenda Date: 8/13/2024

Agenda Item Name:

Update on Farmworker Housing Assignment

Presenter:

Mehdi Benkhatar, 352-374-5261

Description:

An update on the status of community engagement related to farmworker housing and proposed changes to the land development code for the farmworker housing use.

Recommended Action:

Hear the presentation and provide direction.

Prior Board Motions:

12/13/2022: Consensus direction to have staff explore issues related to farmworker housing and bring back a discussion at a future meeting.

11/7/2023: Continue to move forward with community engagement.

Fiscal Note:

n/a

Strategic Guide:

Housing

Background:

Following the approval of the Island Grove farmworker housing special exception application in 2022, the Board asked staff to look at possible amendments to the farmworker housing codes and standards for this use. The existing code did not provide any standards beyond allowing density to be exceeded if the housing proposed was movable. In November 2023, staff returned to the Board at a special meeting to discuss the existing standards and provide a background of related issues. Staff has since met with stakeholders including small farmers as part of a community engagement effort. During the 2024 Florida legislative session, a bill (Senate Bill 1082) was passed that would preempt local governments from enacting their own standards for farmworker housing. Based on this, staff began working to align farmworker housing code with this bill. However, in late June 2024, Governor DeSantis vetoed the bill. Thus, staff has resumed discussion on code/Comp Plan amendments and is providing a draft of these proposed changes at this meeting.