



Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

Date: March 27, 2012

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: Betsy Spencer, Director NHCD *BES*

Subject: Update on Resolution 20111215-058: Strategies related to geographic dispersion of affordable housing

This memorandum serves to provide an update on Resolution 20111215-058 on December 15, 2011, that directed City staff to work with the Community Development Commission and other stakeholders to research strategies of achieving geographic dispersion of affordable housing, and to provide information to the City Council on additional strategies and practices for geographic dispersion of affordable housing and the feasibility of implementing those strategies for the City of Austin.

Responsive to the resolution, staff has worked with the Community Development Commission (CDC) on this research initiative – presenting at the January and March 2012 CDC meetings as well as coordinating with a Working Group initiated by the CDC. The Working Group is comprised of members of the community, CDC members and affordable housing professionals (See Attachment 1 for a list of Working Group members).

The specific work plan to assist staff in its research efforts consists of three key tasks:

1. Develop a statement of desired outcome for housing siting policies, practices and strategies that can achieve dispersion of affordable housing throughout Austin.
2. Review the research surrounding the three approaches identified by staff: Capacity –based, Goal-based and Strategic.
3. Evaluate the challenges and opportunities for each approach for short-term and long-term feasibility.

NHCD staff and the CDC Working Group will finalize its discussion in late March on the above tasks prior to NHCD's presentation to the Comprehensive Planning and Comprehensive Committee on April 2, 2012. The presentation will focus on research related to housing siting policies as well as the feedback by the CDC Working Group throughout March. To garner additional community input, NHCD proposes to utilize its Fiscal Year 2012-13 Action Plan public input process from March – June to solicit feedback on an array of policy and program issues. The Action Plan also serves to highlight how the department will invest local funds as well as federal funding allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The department currently recognizes a number of policies, practices and strategies that drive investment decisions – including the Affordable Housing Core Values: Deep Affordability, Long-term Affordability and Geographic Dispersion. The public input process the next three months will be useful to further the community dialogue on how best to achieve affordable housing in all parts of Austin.

Community Development Commission Working Group Members
Affordable Housing Siting Policy Issue Area

1. Steven Aleman – Austin Neighborhoods Council
2. Marti Bier – City of Austin, NHCD
3. Kathleen Buchanan – City of Austin, Law Department
4. Maneesh Chaku – City of Austin, NHCD
5. Mandy De Mayo - HousingWorks
6. Paul DiGiuseppe – City of Austin/Imagine Austin
7. Darla Gay – Travis County District Attorney’s Office/Re-Entry Roundtable
8. Rebecca Giello – City of Austin, NHCD
9. Stuart Hersh – Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Roundtable
10. Ann Howard – Ending Community Homelessness Organization (ECHO)
11. Dianna Lewis – Corporation for Supportive Housing
12. Elizabeth Mueller – Community Development Commission
13. Kelly Nichols – City of Austin, NHCD
14. Angelica Noyola – Community Development Commission
15. Karen Paup – Community Development Commission
16. Myron Smith – Community Development Commission
17. Kathy Stark – Austin Tenant’s Council
18. Tracy Witte – Organization of Central East Austin Neighborhoods/ Austin Neighborhoods Council

Community Conversations

You're Invited

on prioritizing Austin's community needs

Financial Empowerment in Austin!

Friday, March 30, 9 am - 10:30 am

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office, 1000 E. 11th Street, Room 400A

Conversation topics will include financial education, and homebuyer education, including the City's down payment assistance program. Learn about programs underway in Austin and join in the casual dialogue to ensure NHCD's programs are responsive to residents' needs.

Healthy Homes & Home Repair

Friday, April 13, 9 am - 10:30 am

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office, 1000 E. 11th Street, Room 400A

Often, maintaining or making needed repairs on a house over time can be out of reach for Austin's low-income households. Join NHCD to learn about existing programs and discuss ideas for healthy homes for Austinites.

Affordable Housing Across Austin

Tuesday, April 24, 9 am - noon

Austin City Hall, City Council Chambers, 301 W. 2nd St.

The City continues to explore, through important policy discussions, how to ensure affordable housing in all parts of Austin. Other communities have tried different strategies: Hear how other communities achieve affordable housing and weigh in on strategies best for Austin!

RSVPs requested to NHCD@austintexas.gov.

Questions? Contact Patricia Bourenane at (512) 974-1057 or patricia.bourenane@austintexas.gov.

www.austintexas.gov/housing



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