

Austin Tenants' Council
Statement of Position on Rental
Registration for the City of Austin

Presented by:
Carol Biedrzycki
ATC Board of Directors

AUSTIN TENANTS' COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF POSITION
ON RENTAL REGISTRATION FOR THE CITY OF AUSTIN

The Austin Tenants' Council (ATC) operates under the philosophy that everyone has a right to safe, decent, fair, and affordable housing. The Austin Tenants' Council fulfills thousands of individual requests each year for help with housing problems. The housing problems we work to resolve focus on housing discrimination; tenant-landlord education and information; and housing repair and rehabilitation.

ATC's mission statement is to protect tenants' rights and educate the community on fair housing. Our vision is to make Texas communities open to all without discrimination and free of landlord-tenant disputes.

Over twenty Texas cities including Houston, Dallas, College Station, Sugarland, Plano, Fort Worth, Garland, Arlington, Waco, Missouri City and Hurst have implemented residential rental property registration programs to ensure the safety of their residents. Ensuring the safety of residents in rental property is consistent with ATC's mission. Rental registration is in the interests of the clients we serve, provided that there is adequate enforcement and a dependable safety net for tenants displaced from properties that code enforcement determines are unsafe.

To assure that the codes are properly enforced and that displaced tenants are protected from becoming homeless, a rental registration program should provide for the following:

- Uniform enforcement of all violations providing for a special prosecutor.
- An efficient and timely process.
- Follow-up and re-inspection after violations are found.
- An inspection and re-inspection process that subjects properties with violations to a greater number of inspections than those that are consistently without violations.
- Protocols to assure that tenants who are displaced because of an order by code enforcement are relocated to comparable housing; that they have moving and security deposit allowances; and that their utility deposits are transferred.
- The city establishes and follows procedures to foreclose on all properties owing fines and that the properties then be sold to provide funds for tenant relocation.

ATC looks forward to working with code enforcement and other stakeholders to develop a rental registration process that will provide Austin residents safe, decent, fair, and affordable housing and that minimizes or eliminates any negative impact on renters displaced from substandard apartments.

Presented by:

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ATC Board of Directors
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Austin, TX 78702

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Contact Us

Austin Tenants' Council
1640-B East 2nd Street, Suite 150
Austin, TX 78702

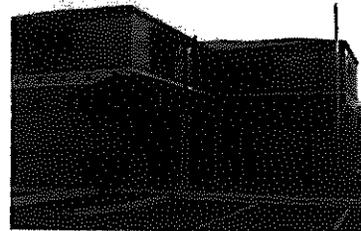
Telephone Counseling: 474-1961 (Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Appointments: 474-7006 (Monday through Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Fax: 474-0197

Bus routes: 17, 21/22, and 320

Directions to ATC: We are located on the east side of IH35. From downtown, take East Cesar Chavez Street past the intersection with Comal Street. Turn left on Chalmers Avenue and cross 2nd Street. We are located in the two-story brick building on the left.



ATC is funded by the City of Austin, Travis County, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and agency fundraising efforts.

The Austin Tenants' Council as a subrecipient of the City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please call 512-474-1961 (voice) or Relay Texas at 1-800-735-2969 (TDD) for assistance.

The City does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Dolores Gonzalez has been designated as the City's Section 504/ADA Coordinator. Her office is located at 505 Barton Springs Road, Suite 600. If you have any questions or complaints regarding your Section 504/ADA rights, please call the Section 504/ADA Coordinator at 974-3256 (voice) or 974-2445 (TTY).