



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: April 9, 2025

In Control: San Antonio Housing Commission Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood and Housing Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Veronica Garcia, Director

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Director to report updates on Neighborhood & Housing Services Department Programs.

SUMMARY:

Each month the Director prepares a report on program updates directly affecting the Housing Commission and its charge.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Director's Report will include: (a) RentWise SA Campaign Update, (b) Fair Housing Month Proclamation; (c) Property Tax Help Campaign Update; (d) Community Land Trust Website Update, (e) 89th State Legislative Session Update, and (f) Upcoming meetings.

ISSUE:

a. RentWise SA Campaign Update

The purpose of RentWise SA is to increase awareness of rights and responsibilities for renters and rental housing providers in San Antonio. NHSD contracts with the Fair Housing Council of South Texas to provide free public information sessions in English, Spanish and ASL on the essential rights, responsibilities, and resources for renters including local, state, and federal fair housing policies and laws. Find out more information at www.sa.gov/tenantsrights

2025 Sessions

- Saturday January 25th South San High School – 30 attendees (D4)
- Saturday February 22nd Mexican American Unity Council – 58 attendees (D5)
- Tuesday March 25th Virtual Meeting on Webex – 80 attendees

Upcoming Sessions

- Saturday April 12, 2025; Alamo Colleges District Board Room, 2-3:30 PM
- Thursday May 22, 2025; Connect+Ability at Health Warm Springs 1-2:30 PM

b. Fair Housing Month

In honor of April being Fair Housing Month, the Mayor will issue a proclamation on April 9th at 5 pm in council chambers. Commissioners are invited to attend this event.

c. Property Tax Help Campaign Update

The Property Tax Help Campaign helps homeowners file for homestead and other exemptions. The Campaign also helps homeowners learn how to protest their property tax valuations. NHSD has partnered with a professional tax consultant to help facilitate this year's 15 workshops. Attendees will have the opportunity to receive one on one assistance and file on site with the Bexar Appraisal District (BCAD).

Spanish and American Sign Language interpretation will be available at all sessions. This year, there will also be workshops led in Arabic, Vietnamese, and Spanish with English interpretation available.

The first session will be held at True Vine Baptist Church (435 S Ellison Dr, 78245) on Monday, April 7th at 4:30 PM. Doors open at 4:00 PM. A full schedule of sessions can be found at www.sa.gov/propertytaxhelp.

To align with the Fiscal Year 2025's launch, an 8-part video series is now on the NHSD YouTube channel. The videos were developed in coordination with Bexar Appraisal District. The videos provide explanations about what property taxes are, how to file exemptions, and the process to protest a property's assessed value. All videos are in English, Spanish, and ASL. The videos can be seen <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkplWqI2-TODnkxO9W8spCpNgBANDhxBq>

d. Community Land Trust Website Update

A Community Land Trust (CLT) is a nonprofit organization that creates long-term affordable homeownership opportunities. People with low incomes can own a home while leasing land from the CLT.

On October 31, 2024, City Council approved a policy to guide how CLTs apply to receive an

official designation from City Council. CLTs may also apply for a partial city tax exemption. The designation allows a CLT to receive appropriate tax appraisal treatment from Bexar Appraisal District. In February 2025, a new webpage on sa.gov launched to walk interested CLTs through the designation process.

e. 89th State Legislative Session Update

NHSD staff and the Chief Housing Officer hosted a rally day for the SA Housing Coalition members. The rally day began with a plenary session of Bexar County delegates followed by 18 meetings with offices. Staff will provide a summary of the day and an update on select bills.

f. Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Housing Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 4:00 PM at the Alamo Colleges District Board Room (2222 N Alamo St, 78215). Other important upcoming meetings are below. Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

- 4/15: Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Subcommittee
- 5/5: Public Engagement & Outreach Subcommittee
- 5/6: Renters' Solution Subcommittee

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing and discussion purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing and discussion purposes only.