



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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

Agenda Date: August 28, 2024

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 and 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) REACH Initiative Update; (b) Public Information Campaign RFP Update; (c) Housing Legislative Workshop; (d) Upcoming meetings.

ISSUE:

a. Rental Engagement & Assistance to Connect with Housing (REACH) Initiative Update

On April 25th, NHSD staff briefed the Planning & Community Development Committee on source of income protections for voucher holders. The Committee requested staff convene discussions between the housing authorities, rental housing providers, and other stakeholders to discuss ways to implement the SHIP strategy on improving access to housing for voucher holders. NHSD staff will be collaborating with Close to Home to convene stakeholders on this issue.

A steering committee was formed in July to help brainstorm recommended systemic, policy and programmatic improvements to rental subsidies including voucher usage. On August 23rd, a larger group of stakeholders met to review the ideas and prioritize them based on impact, population served, feasibility, resources, and timeline. The stakeholders will form working groups to build the top ideas into a list of recommendations that can be brought to the appropriate governing body.

b. Public Information Campaign RFP Update

On August 8, 2024, City Council approved KGBTexas Communications to assist the development of the Housing Affordability Public Information Campaign. Phases of the scope of work focuses on creating citywide narrative change around housing access, choice, affordability, and fair housing needs. KGBTexas' services include, but are not limited to, communications/ media audit, graphic design, strategy consulting, community meeting facilitation, and interpretation and translation services.

c. Housing Legislative Workshop

Mark Carmona, Chief Housing Officer, held a community Housing Legislative Workshop on August 9, 2024, in preparation for the upcoming 89th Texas Legislative Session. The session included remarks by Senator Menendez, Mayor Nirenberg, Lori Houston, and Carmona.

The session was attended by over 80 individuals from public, private, and community organizations. The event included a panel discussion regarding state-level issues and session forecast. Workgroups were led by subject matter experts that included many Commissioners and involved topics such as rising insurance and the impact on affordable housing, title clearance and heirs' property, taxation and appraisal, public finance corporations/housing finance corporations, and low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) regulations. A summary of the day's discussions will be shared at the next Housing Commission meeting.

d. Upcoming Meetings

The next regular meeting of the Housing Commission will be held on September 25, 2024. Other important upcoming meetings include:

- 9/4: Dashboard & Annual Report Subcommittee
- 9/5: Public Engagement & Outreach Subcommittee
- 9/5: Renters' Solution Subcommittee
- 9/16 & 9/30: Removing Barriers' Technical Working Group
- 9/17: Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Subcommittee

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing and discussion purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing and discussion purposes only.