



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 5

Agenda Date: April 24, 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) SACRD Housing Portal Launch; (b) Property Tax Help Campaign Update; (c) Community Land Trust (CLT) Update; (d) Upcoming meetings.

ISSUE:

a) SACRD Housing Portal Launch

The SACRD Housing Services Portal serves as a virtual one-stop shop for housing related services

and assistance. The portal helps individuals find services beyond locating rental options, such as rental and utility assistance, legal assistance, home buyer assistance, repairs, aging in place, and relocation services. It is available in English and Spanish.

The SACRD Housing Services Portal officially launched on April 23 with a launch event at Bazan Branch Library. The event featured an interactive training session and Q&A segment, aimed at introducing invited stakeholders to the newly launched portal and providing attendees with a thorough understanding of the portal's functionalities.

SACRD will conduct approximately 20-30 additional training sessions by the end of the year for community partners and SACRD users. Additionally, SACRD will create short “how-to” video(s) to demonstrate how to use SACRD and the Housing Services Portal.

b) Property Tax Help Campaign Update

The Property Tax Help Campaign helps homeowners file for homestead exemptions and learn how to protest their property tax valuations. NHSD has partnered with Texas True Tax to help facilitate the property tax help sessions. 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 is also available at all sessions.

Over 322 households have been served in the first nine sessions (7 in-person; 2 virtual). The next session will be held at Elma A Neal Elementary (3407 Capitol Avenue, 78201) on Saturday, April 27th at 10:00 AM. Doors open at 9:30 AM.

The Mexican American Unity Council (MAUC) also assists residents at year-round at satellite offices. As of March, MAUC has served 10 households and is providing services with Council Offices 4, 7, 9, and 1 in their field offices from April-May to offer exemption assistance to constituents.

Additional session dates, location, and information may be accessed online at www.sanantonio.gov/propertytaxhelp.

c) Community Land Trust (CLT) Update

NHSD is drafting a Community Land Trust (CLT) designation policy to comply with state code requirements and support developing CLTs in San Antonio. This policy will ensure local CLTs receive proper appraisal treatment with the Bexar Appraisal District (BCAD). The CLT designation policy also supports the SHIP strategy to establish a new nonprofit or empower an existing organization to launch and operate a CLT.

d) Upcoming Meetings

The next regular meeting of the Housing Commission will be held on May 22, 2024. Other important upcoming meetings include:

- 5/6: Public Engagement & Outreach Subcommittee

- 5/2: Renters' Solutions Subcommittee Meeting

5/21: Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Subcommittee
4/29 & 5/13: Removing Barriers Technical Working Group

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.