



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 6

Agenda Date: May 22, 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) Property Tax Help Campaign Recap; (b) FY 2025 Annual Action Plan Update; (c) SACRD Launch Update; (d) Public Information Campaign Update; (e) Housing Voucher Update; (f) Upcoming meetings.

ISSUE:

a) Property Tax Help Campaign Recap

The 2024 Property Tax Help Campaign helped homeowners file for homestead exemptions and learn how to protest their property tax valuations. NHSD partnered with Texas True Tax to help facilitate the property tax help sessions.

667 households attended a campaign event this year. 12 sessions were held in-person and 2 were held virtually. Recordings of the presentation are available at sanantonio.gov/propertytaxhelp in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, and ASL.

The Mexican American Unity Council (MAUC) also assists residents at year-round at satellite offices. As of April, MAUC has served 14 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.

NHSD staff will gather feedback from partners and attendees to begin FY25 campaign planning.

b) FY 2025 Annual Action Plan Update

The City's annual planning process for the City's FY25 HUD Action Plan will kick off next month with community meetings, engagement opportunities, and stakeholder outreach. The Action Plan will be presented to the Housing Commission and PCDC in June followed by Council consideration on August 8th. The Action Plan is due to HUD by August 16th.

c) SACRD Housing Portal Launch Update

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 23rd. SACRD will be conducting 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.

d) Public Information Campaign RFP Update

The scoring committee for the consultant RFP selection to assist with the citywide public information campaign met on May 10, 2024. The selection of consultant is planned for City Council action on 6/13.

e) Housing Voucher Update

On April 25th, NHSD staff briefed the Planning & Community Development Committee on source of income protections. 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.

f) Upcoming Meetings

The next regular meeting of the Housing Commission will be held on June 26, 2024. Other important upcoming meetings include:

- 5/28 & 6/10: Removing Barriers Technical Working Group
- 6/3: Dashboard and Annual Report Subcommittee
- 6/3: Public Engagement & Outreach Subcommittee
- 6/6: Renters' Solutions Subcommittee Meeting
- 6/18: 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.