



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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

Agenda Date: February 20, 2025

In Control: San Antonio Housing Commission Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood and Housing Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Veronica Garcia, Director

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and possible action related to the approval of recommended appointees to the Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Subcommittee of the Housing Commission.

SUMMARY:

Commissioner Alanis, the Housing Commissioner currently chairing the Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing Development and Preservation Subcommittee (RBSC) and outgoing RBSC Co-Chair Jim Bailey, reviewed applications and are recommending seven non-commission members of the subcommittee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On October 12, 2021, the Housing Commission formalized the Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing Development & Preservation Subcommittee (RBSC). The RBSC is charged with recommending improvements to the development code and other city processes to facilitate the

development and preservation of more affordable housing in San Antonio. The RBSC makes recommendations to the Housing Commission supporting the linkage of housing and transportation, and models to support affordability through growth such as Community Land Trusts (CLTs), strategic property acquisition, development bonuses for affordable housing, Universal Design and Visitability, and other relevant Housing Commission priorities.

The subcommittee is comprised of two Housing Commissioners and seven non-commission members with relevant experience.

Commissioner Alanis and Co-Chair Jim Bailey have presided over all meetings since the subcommittee's creation in 2021. Commissioner Johnson has served as the second Housing Commission member of the Subcommittee since 2021.

ISSUE:

Subcommittee members serve two-year terms. To stagger terms, members approved in October 2021 and November 2022 were assigned either two or three-year terms. The two members appointed to three-year terms, Jim Bailey and Jordan Ghawi, are resigning early. The remaining two-year terms concluded in November 2024. Therefore, the seven non-commissioner seats are being considered for appointments.

Sixteen applications were received for the seven slots. Four current members of the subcommittee reapplied. Co-Chairs Alanis and Bailey recommend the following seven individuals be appointed to the RBSC with the following term lengths:

- Melanie Cawthon, disABILITY SA, current member, 2 years.
- Michael Taylor, Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio, current member, 2 years.
- Seema Kairam, San Antonio Housing Trust, current member, 3 years.
- Meredith Siegel, Merced Housing Texas, current member, 2 years.
- Isabel Galvan, Community Advocate, Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, 3 years.
- Ryan Baldwin, Franklin Apartment Management, Board Member of the San Antonio Apartment Association, 2 years.
- David Morin, MNO Partners, Urban Land Institute (ULI), 2 years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

ALTERNATIVES:

Housing Commission may decide to approve none or some of the recommended appointees.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Housing Commission approve the recommended appointees for the non-commission members of the RBSC for the terms listed below:

2-year term: Melanie Cawthon, Michael Taylor, Meredith Siegel, Ryan Baldwin, and David Morin

3-year term: Seema Kairam and Isabel Galvan