



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: February 23, 2023

In Control: Planning and Community Development Committee

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood and Housing Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Veronica Garcia, Director

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing on the City's Fair Housing & Tenants' Rights Awareness Campaign

SUMMARY:

Briefing on the City's Fair Housing & Tenants' Rights Awareness Campaign

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On December 16, 2021, City Council adopted the Strategic Housing Implementation Plan (SHIP). The SHIP is a cross organizational plan for the next 10 years of housing work in our community. It organizes 36 strategies under 5 overarching goals. Two of the goals include Ensure Accountability to the Public and Protect & Promote Neighborhoods. Both goals include strategies to increase awareness of Fair Housing laws and tenants' rights.

Most of the tenant protection laws reside within the Texas Property Code, the Texas Local Government Code, and the Federal Fair Housing Act. However, the City has also created local

programs through the adoption of the Notice of Tenants' Rights in June 2020, and the adoption of the Housing Voucher Incentive Policy in May 2021. Combined, these laws support necessary protections so tenants may live in safe, decent, and quality housing without fear of retaliation and discrimination.

There is not an official document, however, that identifies all the existing tenant protections (local, state, and federal) for our community and where to report these concerns. This document will be created as part of a Fair Housing & Tenants' Rights Awareness Campaign to help fulfill the SHIP strategies related to increasing awareness of tenants' rights and Fair Housing laws.

ISSUE:

Implementing SHIP strategies related to tenants' rights and Fair Housing awareness includes three key steps as part of the campaign: (1) Consideration of a resolution supporting the rights of tenants to live in safe, decent, and quality housing that is free of retaliation and discrimination through the local, state, and federal fair housing laws; (2) the development of educational materials that clearly identify the protection provided by each law, who to contact if the protection is violated, and where to go for additional assistance; and (3) the development of a more reader friendly Notice of Tenants' Rights.

The City Attorney's Office drafted the resolution (attached), and staff will engage the PCDC, Housing Commission and relevant sub-committees, and other stakeholders in its review and prior to Council consideration. Additionally, staff will work with the abovementioned stakeholders in the development of educational materials and revisions to the Notice of Tenants' Rights. The final documents will return to PCDC in April or May for consideration with Council Consideration in May or June.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.