



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 5

Agenda Date: June 22, 2022

In Control: San Antonio Housing Commission Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood and Housing Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Veronica Garcia, Interim 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: (a) Follow-up question asked during the Housing Commission Meeting on May 25, 2022; (b) Introduction of Interim Assistant Director; (c) Housing Assistance Program Update; (d) FY2023 Annual Action Plan Updated; (e) FY2023 Budget Survey; (f) Upcoming meetings and reminders. [Veronica Garcia, Interim Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department]

ISSUE:

a) Follow Up Questions: During the May 25, 2022 meeting the following items required staff follow-up:

- Commissioner Keammerer requested a panel conversation focused on increasing household wages in San Antonio. Commissioner Keammerer requested businesses be a part of the conversation.
 - o Staff will work on getting this type of panel scheduled for an upcoming meeting.
- Commissioner Alanis requested bios be provided for the people selected for the Renters' Issues Subcommittee.
 - o The bios have been requested and will be posted on the Renters' Issues Subcommittee (RIS) website.
- Commissioner Sanchez suggested renaming the Renters' Issues Subcommittee to something that was more focused on solutions.
 - o The subcommittee will provide their recommendation of a new name at the July Housing Commission meeting.

b) Introduction of Interim Director and Interim Deputy Director of NHSD:

This month, Veronica Gonzales transitioned into the role of Interim Assistant Director of the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department (NHSD). Veronica joined the City more than 9 years ago, holding multiple roles and acquiring a broad knowledge of Capital Improvements, contracts, development, marketing, events, and operations. Before joining NHSD, Veronica served as a Special Projects Manager facilitating housing projects and innovative initiatives in the urban core. She also served as Facilities Administrator advancing strategic relationships and operational performance across La Villita and Market Square for the Center City Development and Operations Department.

c) Housing Assistance Program Update:

On April 23, 2020, City Council approved the creation of the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) to help cover the unmet rent and utility expenses of households affected by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Neighborhood and Housing Services Department (NHSD) administered EHAP, which provided eligible applicants rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. NHSD closed the EHAP application portal on March 1, 2022. As of June 15, 2022, the City has approved approximately \$206,213,078 in emergency housing assistance to 171,537 household members seeking rental, mortgage, and utility assistance.

While EHAP was intended as a temporary emergency program, the City launched the new Housing Assistance Program (HAP) on April 29, 2022, to keep future housing stability services in place for low-income households in San Antonio and any current funds not expended on the EHAP applications were transitioned to the HAP. NHSD closed the HAP application portal on June 10, 2022, as there were thousands of applications in the queue that would utilize the available funding. As of June 15, 2022, HAP, based on the Risk Mitigation Policy adopted by City Council, has approved approximately \$2,421,808 in emergency housing assistance to 2,263 household members seeking rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. The HAP portal will remain active and continue to accept applications for Relocation Assistance to eligible households. In addition to the Relocation Assistance Program, the Eviction Intervention Team will also remain active at all precinct courts providing the latest information on intervention services, free legal guidance, and fair housing resources.

d) FY2023 Annual Action Plan Update

The public comment period is currently underway for the FY 2023 HUD Annual Action Plan, in which residents and organizations are asked to provide input on the priorities and budget for federal funds to be received by the City. The first of two public hearings was held last week, on June 15th, and the first of two community meetings was held Saturday, June 18th. A draft of the Action Plan will be developed and made available to the public for review beginning July 1st. We will have a briefing on the Action Plan at the Housing Commission's July meeting.

e) FY2023 Budget Survey

The City's annual budget survey is currently open. The survey aims to gather the public's priorities for the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. The City's budget serves as a roadmap to provide residents with service and programming for the upcoming year. The City has put together a trial budget to share preliminary information and allocations for the next Fiscal Year. The document will help inform upcoming discussions and can be found at: <https://www.sanantonio.gov/budget>.

The survey will be open on SASpeakUp until 6/30/2022.

f) Upcoming Meetings

The next regular meeting of the Housing Commission will be held on July 27, 2022.

Other important upcoming meetings include:

- 6/28: Planning and Community Development Committee
- There are no July City Council A Session meetings.

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.