



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 5

Agenda Date: January 25, 2023

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: (a) SHIP Event Update; (b) Property Tax Help Campaign Update; (c) Housing Assistance Program Funding Update; (d) Upcoming meetings and reminders.

ISSUE:

a) SHIP Event - Housing Affordability in SA: Resources + Community Connections
On January 28, 2023, the City of San Antonio's Neighborhood & Housing Services Department

(NHSD), Opportunity Home, San Antonio Housing Trust (SAHT) and Bexar County will host an event titled: Housing Affordability in SA: Resources + Community Connections. This event is a part of the Strategic Housing Implementation Plan (SHIP) strategy to meaningfully engage with the community regarding progress of SHIP's implementation and will include discussion on work done in the first year. The event will take place at Tafolla Middle School in District 5 and run from 10:00AM – 2:00PM. Program highlights include opening remarks from Mayor Nirenberg, resource fair, and discussions and workshops lead by Housing Commissioners, partner organizations (SAHT, Opportunity Home, Bexar County), and City staff.

b) Property Tax Help Campaign (PTHC)

In September 2022, City Council voted and approved a \$250,000 budget for a 2023 Property Tax Help Campaign. The Campaign aims to help homeowners file for homestead exemptions and learn about how to protest their property tax valuations. NHSD has partnered with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) and San Antonio Legal Services Association (SALSA) to help facilitate and provide free legal services. Other resources including the Bexar County Tax Assessor will be available.

The Campaign will feature fourteen sessions throughout the City with onsite American Sign Language and Spanish interpretation services. In addition, residents may access information online at their convenience.

c) Housing Assistance Program Funding Update

The Housing Assistance Program (HAP), based on the Risk Mitigation Policy, provides financial assistance to stabilize San Antonio renters experiencing emergency situations affecting their ability to pay rent. The FY 2023 adopted budget included \$3.4 million for Rental Assistance. Additional funding sources continue to support the City's response to housing instability including ERA-1 and ERA-2 reallocations totaling \$4.5 million and a Bexar County grant of \$2.2 million. This brought the total rental assistance budget for FY2023 to \$10.1 million. NHSD temporarily reopened the HAP application period for rental assistance from October 7th through October 17th and received over 4,000 online applications. The city approved \$2.1 million in financial assistance for nearly 900 families at or below 80% AMI. Staff will present HAP updates to PCDC on January 19th. Currently, HAP has \$5.6M in available funding for direct welfare. NHSD recommends reopening the application period from February 1- February 16. Staff will coordinate outreach to include Spanish language materials.

d) Upcoming Meetings

The next regular meeting of the Housing Commission will be held on February 22, 2023. Other important upcoming meetings may include:

- 1/26: Proactive Apartment Inspection Stakeholders Group Meeting
- 3/2: Renters' Solutions Subcommittee Meeting
- 2/21: Removing Barriers to Affordable Housing Subcommittee
- 4/7: Dashboard & Annual Report Subcommittee, Public Engagement & Outreach Subcommittee

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.