



FAIR HOUSING TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
JULY 29, 2010
3:00 P.M.

The Fair Housing Task Force Committee met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. Committee Secretary and Fair Housing Officer, Ms. Rhoda Tillman, present and presiding and the following Committee Members answered roll call:

Bill Bennett
Lisle H. Davis
Joel G. Guzman
Luis Carlos Sandoval Jr.
Sergio Vasquez

Mary Cardenas
Larry Garcia
Stephanie Karr, Chairperson
Rhoda Tillman, Fair Housing Officer
Jo Ann Vera, Recording Secretary

The following members were not present:

Rafael Hernando III (excused)

Kelly Sorenson

Late arrival:

Delia Chavez

Agenda

1. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum.
2. Introduction of Southwest Fair Housing Council (SWFHC) Staff Consultant for Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice
3. Advisory Board Members' Introductions
4. Review and Approval of Minutes
Fair Housing Task Force Meeting, April 20, 2010
5. Review of Analysis of Impediments Process
Presentation by Southwest Fair Housing Council
6. Review of Analysis of Impediments Draft Survey
Presentation by Southwest Fair Housing Council

7. Call for Public Comments on Agenda Items
8. Discussion and Action on Setting the Next Task Force Meeting(s)

Item 1: Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum

Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed at 3:15 p.m.

Item 2: Introduction of Southwest Fair Housing Council (SWFHC) Staff Consultant for Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

The Chair welcomed Christina Colchado and Jay Young to El Paso as representatives from the Southwest Fair Housing Council (SWFHC) located in Tucson, Arizona. Rhoda explained that the City Purchasing Department issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to complete an Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice. City Purchasing received five responses to the RFP. After review, telephone interviews and ranking of all the proposals, SWFHC was chosen to do the AI. She explained that SWFHC has also been commissioned to complete an AI for the State of Texas.

Item 3: Advisory Board Members' Introductions

Members of the task force and staff introduced themselves.

Item 4: Review and Approval of Minutes from the last Fair Housing Task Force Meeting, April 20, 2010

Motion made by Sergio Vasquez and seconded by Joel Guzman and unanimously carried to accept the minutes as written.

Item 5: Review of Analysis of Impediments Process Presentation by Southwest Fair Housing Council

Jay Young explained that the SWFHC mission is to facilitate the enforcement of the Federal Fair Housing Act that protects seven protected classes from discrimination as it relates to housing. SWFHC was incorporated in 1986 and has been doing AI's for about twelve years. He explained that SWFHC does fair housing enforcement on a City, County, and State level. They do fair housing testing, education, outreach, and training throughout the State and also have a Don't Borrow Trouble campaign program. Jay then explained what an AI is, that it is mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and serves as a means to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH). The AI will be complied by gathering extensive demographic information and data; and uses an intensive community approach to gather data and information through surveys, focus groups, small group meetings, testing, complaint data and interviews. SWFHC will identify past and existing impediments. The AI will conclude with an action to address the identified impediments to fair housing choice.

Jay made reference to a law suit that was brought against Westchester County, New York by a non profit that basically proved that Westchester County was not taking the necessary steps

they said they would to overcome the impediments that had been identified. The result of this suite is HUD is now enforcing regulations, policies, and is withholding CDBG funding which HUD had not been doing prior to this suite. This recently resulted in CDBG recipients having to produce whole new generations of AI's which are much more detailed with an emphasis on identifying and addressing impediments that discriminate against race and national origin.

SWFHC staff must adhere to HUD's requirements for the development of AI's. The AI is to be a comprehensive assessment of laws, regulations, policies, and procedures. The AI will address how these laws, etc. affect the location, availability and accessibility of housing. The AI takes into consideration both public and private factors of affordability and accessibility, housing units, price ranges, and sizes. SWFHC's goal is to produce an AI that will assure the City of El Paso continues to receive federal funding. The AI will provide an action plan that addresses each impediment and provides quantitative goals to alleviate the identified impediments. The AI is the basis for El Paso's fair housing planning, policy development, and it provides information to policy makers, staff, housing providers, fair housing advocates, citizens, and lenders to assure public support for fair housing efforts.

Jay stated that the consultant not being from El Paso offers objectivity but he stressed that the commitment of El Paso is so important. The public input process includes a survey that was made available to task force members and others present at the meeting. Jay explained that the survey is a basic tool that has been used in past AI's and that the interviews, focus groups, and other community input processes are more extensive. He encouraged people to contact SWFHC staff and they will make every effort to make presentations, hold community meetings, or conduct other activities to encourage as much community input as possible.

Item 6: Review of Analysis of Impediments Draft Survey Presentation by Southwest Fair Housing Council

Task force members will serve as key individuals to educate the community on the AI, distribute Surveys and encourage their completion, and assist SWFHC staff to obtain extensive community input. A draft of the AI will be provided the members of the Fair Housing Task Force for review and comment. Once the final AI is approved, Fair Housing Task Force members will implement the AI action plan to alleviate identified impediments to fair housing choice.

Item 7: Call for Public Comments on Agenda Items

Item 8: Discussion and approval of the Next Meeting Date

Task Force members agreed to meet on September 9, 2010.

Joel Guzman entered a motion to adjourn. Larry Garcia seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously

Approved as to form:

Rhoda Tillman, Board Secretary

c: All Attendees