



FAIR HOUSING TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
AUGUST 7, 2012
3:30 P.M.

The Fair Housing Task Force Committee met at the above place and date. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. Recording Secretary, Jo Ann Vera, and Fair Housing Officer, Rhoda Tillman, were present and the following Committee Members answered roll call:

Members present:

Taylor Moreno, Chair
Jane Jones
Rafael Hernando III

Alma Miller
Jerry Romeo
Sergio Vásquez

Late arrival: Veronica Carbajal

Ex-Office Members present:

Bill Bennett
Raul Gonzalez

A G E N D A

1. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum
2. Introduction and Welcome of New Members
3. Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice – El Paso
Role of the Fair Housing Task Force
www.elpasotexas.gov/commdev/
4. Status of the Analysis of Type A Accessible Units
Presentation: Roberto Tinajero, Assistant Director
Institute for Policy and Economic Development
The University of Texas at El Paso
5. Status of Fair Housing Outreach and Education
Presentation: Maureen Hankins, Director
Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS)
YWCA El Paso Del Norte Region
6. Discussion and Approval of the Next Meeting Date

Item 1: Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum

Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed at 3:31 p.m.

Item 2: Introduction and Welcome of New Members

Members were welcomed by the Chair and introductions were made. Members were provided a copy of the Fair Housing Task Force (FHTF) membership and Fair Housing Ordinance.

Item 3: Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice – El Paso

Role of the Fair Housing Task Force, www.elpasotexas.gov/commdev/

Members were provided a copy of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice – El Paso (AI) as well as the above web link to the electronic version of the AI.

The AI is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirement as El Paso is an entitlement City that receives HUD funding to implement housing and other funded projects. The Department of Community and Human Development staff developed the first AI. To ensure that the City had input from the community in furthering fair housing, the staff's initial recommendation, although not required by HUD, was that a FHTF be established. This was done by the City in 1998.

The purpose of the Task Force is to further fair housing choice in the City of El Paso. To accomplish this purpose, the FHTF to update the AI every five years and use the AI as a basis to formulate a Fair Housing Plan with measurable actions to be taken to overcome the effect of any impediments as covered by the Fair Housing Act.

Members were referred to identified impediments and action items in the AI. Mr. Lilly explained that the City FTHF ordinance requires only quarterly meetings. He explained that the department is behind and asked members to meet on a monthly basis to address several fair housing tasks.

Item 4. Status of the Analysis of Type A Accessible Units

Presentation: Roberto Tinajero, Assistant Director
Institute for Policy and Economic Development (IPED)
The University of Texas at El Paso

Mr. Lilly explained at the time the City was in the process of approving a Request for Proposal for a consultant to update the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI), Council was also involved in an on-going request to increase the City's 5% requirement for Type A accessible units in multi-family, 5 or more units, rental complexes. Others wanted the 5% requirement reduced.

Many thought, particularly the disabilities community, with the development of the AI, sufficient data would be documented to substantiate their request. Council then looked to the AI to provide the data to base a later decision on and compromised by establishing the required Type A accessible units at 3%.

The consultant, Southwest Fair Housing Council (SWFHC), in compiling the AI tried to assist with this issue even though they pointed out that this is not an impediment under the Fair Housing Act. SWFHC, not finding sufficient data for either an increase or decrease

recommended a survey be undertaken to determine the supply and demand for Type A accessible units in the City of El Paso.

The University of Texas at El Paso was awarded \$55,000 to complete an Analysis of Type A Accessible Units in the City of El Paso. Roberto Tinajero, IPED, proceeded to provide a status report on the Analysis. Focus groups have met, data continues to be gathered, lists of contacts continue to be made, and the finale changes to the survey are in process. Copies of the survey will be forwarded to the FHTF members for review. Input from the Task Force will be welcome as well as any assistance in forwarding the final survey to solicit as much feedback as possible. Once the analysis is complete, November 26, 2012, information will be provided City Council to assist in their determination as to percentage of Tape A accessible units that will be required.

Mr. Lilly explained the desire to establish a data base whereby those providing Type A units could make their information available and those needing Type A units could easily find Type A units. He explained that this is where partnership/collaborative efforts will be needed to establish such a resource and the expertise and knowledge of the Task Force members is critical.

There was discussion with a question of enforcement of the Type A unit requirement. There was concern, particularly of private sector developers, that the ordinance percentages will be adhered to not only in building/rehabilitation but that the units will be maintained. Several stated that through building permits and City inspections there would be enforcement. It was pointed out that sometimes litigation has to be used to force adherence. Veronica Carbajal informed members that the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid had applied for funding for enforcement of the Fair Housing Act. Their recent application to HUD had received very high rating but HUD had insufficient funds to fund all requests. Veronica stated that Legal Aid will apply again next year. She will provide the task force members information detailing the goal of the funding.

Mr. Lilly mentioned the City takes fair housing seriously and wants to develop more efforts to further fair housing choice. He pointed out that Legal Aid is a good example where a partnership could expand opportunities for fair housing testing and assist the city in providing services to assist individuals in filing fair housing complaints.

Item 5. Status of Fair Housing Outreach and Education

Presentation: Maureen Hankins, Director
Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS)
YWCA El Paso Del Norte Región

The YWCA applied for \$25,000 in CDBG monies for Fair Housing Outreach and Education Program in December, 2011, and has been awarded the program which begins September 1, 2012. YWCA staff will assist in expanding the role of the City of El Paso Fair Housing Officer. Maureen Hankins explained that they do fair housing training in their first time homebuyer classes, but this funding will allow them to do more in their classes, prepare presentations for other functions, make information inroads into other groups, and assist the Fair Housing Task Force in research and review of specific impediments identified in the AI.

Item 6: Discussion and Approval of the Next Meeting Date

Task Force members set the next meeting for 3:30 p.m., September 4, 2012.

Jerry Romero entered a motion to adjourn. Sergio Vasquez seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously

Approved as to form:

Rhoda Tillman, Board Secretary