

THERE WAS NO QUORUM FOR THE MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY AND MARCH 2006; THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING MINUTES WERE NOT APPROVED. THIS WAS THE LAST MEETINGS HELD TO DATE



**FAIR HOUSING TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
DECEMBER 7, 2005
3:30 P.M.**

The Fair Housing Task Force Committee met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. Committee Secretary and Fair Housing Officer, Ms. Patricia White, present and presiding and the following Committee Members answered roll call:

Bill Bennett
Laura Kissack
David Marquez
Maria Picard-Ami
Patricia White, Fair Housing Officer

Mary Cardenas
Zulema Lazarin
Walt Phillips
Zulema Jamis, Recording Secretary

The following members were not present:

Lucilia-Flores Camarena
Norma Cervantes
Larry Garcia

Gerardo Camacho
Elizabeth Dalton
Annette Gutierrez

No late arrivals or early departures.

Agenda

1. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum.
2. Review and Approval of minutes from the last Fair Housing Task Force Meeting held September 28, 2005.
3. Review and discussion on the process to research the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.
4. Discussion and approval of the Next Meeting Date.

5. Adjournment of the Regular Meeting followed by Sub-Committee Meetings to review, discuss and research the following Impediments to Fair Housing Choice:

Sub-Committee "A" – Impediments One, Seven & Eleven:

Impediment One -- There is a lack of education within the community concerning Fair Housing rights.

Impediment Seven -- There is a perception on the part of complainants that resolution of Fair Housing complaints is a very lengthy process.

Impediment Eleven -- The City should review/identify additional protected classes to include in its Fair Housing Ordinance.

Sub-Committee "B" – Impediments Three, Nine & Twelve:

Impediment Three – The lack of availability of affordable homeowners insurance precludes some minority applicants and persons with disabilities from home ownership opportunities.

Impediment Nine -- There is evidence to suggest that the mortgage denial rates for conventional lending are often disproportionately higher among minority applicants and people with disabilities in El Paso.

Impediment Twelve -- Financial Literacy – the need to educate potential homebuyers on the Loan Process.

Sub-Committee "C" – Impediments Two, Four, Five & Six:

Impediment Two -- "NIMBYism" – the attitude of "Not in My Backyard".

Impediment Four -- There is a high percentage of households at or below poverty level, which limits the choices of affordable housing.

Impediment Five -- There is a reluctance on the part of landlords to rent to persons receiving government housing assistance.

Impediment Six -- The lack of affordable accessible apartment units and single-family rental housing for persons with disabilities.

Impediments Eight and Ten will be reviewed by the entire Task Force:

Impediment Eight -- The City's policy regarding funding for accessibility modifications for renters.

Impediment Ten -- Advocates for persons with disabilities recommend that the Community Development Department's policies, procedures and practices should be reviewed for possible effectual discrimination against persons with disabilities, as follows:

- A. To review and evaluate the current mechanism to assure that no housing proposal will be funded without an adequate review for addressing fair housing issues of protected classes.
- B. The City should designate a portion of its CDBG and HOME funds, in the form of a grant, as stated in Impediment 8, for projects designed to meet the rental, housing rehabilitation and home ownership needs for people with disabilities. The Task Force further recommends that individuals and representatives for persons with disabilities be consulted prior to development of the designated set aside.
- C. The City should cite in its Request for Housing Proposals that it acknowledges that the unit cost per square foot of either new construction or rehabilitation may exceed standard builder's costs for spec homes built on contiguous lots, or when demolition and relocation are included in a project.

Item 1: Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Item 2: Review and Approval of Minutes from the last Fair Housing Task Force Meeting held September 28, 2005.

Motion made by Laura Kissack and seconded by Zulema Lazarin and unanimously carried to accept the minutes as written:

AYES: Mr. Marquez, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Kissack, Ms. Picard-Ami and Ms. Lazarin
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Item 3: Review and Discussion of the process that will be used to research the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Due to the large number of volunteers on **Subcommittee C**, Ms. White asked the committee members if they would volunteer to serve on one of the other two subcommittees. There was no vote taken to this effect, since it was voluntary.

Item 4: Discussion and approval of the Next Meeting Date.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in the Eighth Floor Conference Room with the Subcommittees meeting immediately afterwards.

Item 5: Adjournment of the Regular Meeting followed by Sub-Committee Meetings to review, discuss and research the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice:

Motion made by David Marquez, seconded by Maria Picard–Ami, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 PM.

AYES: Mr. Marquez, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Kissack, Ms. Picard-Ami, Ms. Lazarin
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

The Task Force Committee members and guests separated into Sub-Committees to review and discuss their assigned Impediments to Fair Housing Choice:

Approved as to form:

Patricia White, Board Secretary

c: All Attendees