



**MINUTES OF THE
FAIR HOUSING TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2005**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Bennett	Laura Kissack
Gerardo Camacho	Zulema Lazarin
Larry Garcia	Walt Phillips

STAFF PRESENT

Gloria Garcia, Secretary
Patricia White, Fair Housing Officer

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Lucila Flores Camarena
Mary Cardenas
Norma Cervantes
Elizabeth Dalton
Annette Gutierrez
David Marquez (excused)
Maria Picard – Ami (excused)

GUESTS

Rocio Castruita -- YWCA
Elke Cumming – YWCA Comm. Dev.
David Gillooly – Opport. Ctr For The Homeless
Sussette Leal – TVP Non-Profit
Anibal Olague – Border Fair Housing
Bill Truax – TVP Non-Profit
Sergio Vasquez – Border Fair Housing

1. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from the last Fair Housing Task Force Meeting held August 17, 2005.

Walt Phillips made a motion to accept the August 17, 2005 minutes as presented. Gerardo Camacho second the motion and the motion carried.

3. Brief Review of the history of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Mrs. Patricia White distributed a flyer on the history of the Fair Housing analysis of Impediments. Mrs. White explained that back in 1995 HUD requested a Consolidated Plan for the next 5 years from all recipients of HUD Funding. This request also included an analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice to be done either In-House or through a consultant. Mrs. White explained that in 1996 an Ordinance was created and the Fair Housing Task Force Committee was formed.

The Committee's initial analysis consisted of seven (7) impediments. The Committee consists of Nine (9) Voting Members (one from each district) and Nine (9) Ex-Officio Members. The Chair Person is appointed by the Mayor. Per the Ordinance, a voting member can be appointed for 2 consecutive terms or 4 years. The Fair Housing Task Force's goal was for every organization in the community to be represented. The first meeting was held in 1998 and two open quorums were conducted to get input from community. The report of analysis has been presented to City Council three times – first in April of 2000, October 2001 and April 2004.

Larry Garcia inquired about the responsibilities of CDBG Grant recipients. Mrs. White informed Mr. Garcia that these duties included (1) reviewing the current analysis of impediments, (2) identifying additional impediments and (3) developing a city wide strategy to address the impediments and finally presenting an annual report to City Council on these findings.

Mr. Garcia also inquired as to who was responsible for verifying that CDBG recipients were in compliance with Fair Housing Laws, particularly referring to the flyer Mr. Anibal Olague distributed on the complaint filed against Mr. John Falvey, owner of the property at 521 Missouri.

Pat White explained procedure on verifying CDBG recipients. Mrs. White explained the procedure of her responsibilities with CDBG recipients. Mrs. White stated that before completion of a project, the owner receives Fair Housing training, is required to review all of the required rules and regulations and their leases are also reviewed.

Mrs. White informed the attendees that in 1995 Mr. And Mrs. Falvey received funds to rehabilitate their units. The Falvey's were given a five-year affordability period, after completion of their project, in which they were to remain in compliance with Fair Housing Laws.

Mrs. White also informed the Committee that the Falvey's had received Fair Housing training in 1995 and were also members of El Paso Apartment Association, which also offers periodic Fair Housing training. The Falvey's were also monitored for a required 5-year period from 1995 – 2000.

Laura Kisssack inquired about the how the client was aware of her rights and wondered if the client was part of a monitoring test. Anibal Olague responded by explaining the monitoring process. Mr. Olague stated that the agency has been in business for one year and have investigated 38 complaints to date. Ms. Kissack responded that she felt glad to see some good results from the agency and asked if the city might need to work with Border Fair Housing to further enforce Fair Housing issues. Pat White responded that this would be up to the Committee. Larry Garcia suggested recommending Border Fair Housing as a solution to help with Impediments. Mr. Olague stated that he felt there was education and outreach available to the community and his agency needed more funding to do actual enforcement.

Zulema suggested it was a good idea to have some enforcement. Mrs. Patricia White clarified that there has always been enforcement of Fair Housing complaints. In the past complaints were referred to the HUD office in Fort Worth and now they are directed here locally to the Border Fair Housing Agency for enforcement.

4. Review and Discussion on the process that will be used to research the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Mr. Larry Garcia inquired as to the procedure on Subcommittees presenting a final report. Mrs. Patricia White explained that the three Subcommittees would present periodic reports to the Task Force before actually submitting a final report. Some of the committee members inquired as to when the report is actually due. Mrs. White responded that it is usually presented in the month of April since it is Fair Housing month but there is not necessarily a set deadline and it is a process that should not be rushed.

The following is a revised list of Task Force Committee Members and guest volunteers for Subcommittees:

SUBCOMMITTEE "A"

Walt Phillips
Patricia White
Sergio Vasquez
Sussette Leal

SUBCOMMITTEE "B"

David Marquez
Larry Garcia
Norma Cervantes
Bill Truax
Rocio Castruita

SUBCOMMITTEE "C"

Mary Cardenas
Gerardo Camacho
Maria Picard - Ami
Elke Cummings
Laura Kissack
Zulema Lazarin
Bill Bennett
Dave Gillooly

5. Discussion and approval of the Next Meeting Date.

The next meeting of a whole is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. on the Sixth Floor Conference Room with the Subcommittees meeting immediately afterwards.

Mr Larry Garcia entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Gerardo Camacho and second by Zulema Lazarin to adjourn the meeting and the motion carried.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia White, Secretary

Larry Garcia, Chairman

c: All Attendees