



**FAIR HOUSING TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**  
**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. Rhoda Tillman, present and presiding and the following Committee Members answered roll call:

Delia Chavez  
Stephanie Dodson, Chairperson  
Rafael Hernando  
Rhoda Tillman, Fair Housing Officer

Lisle H. Davis  
Larry Garcia  
Bill Bennett  
Jo Ann Vera, Recording Secretary

The following members were not present:

Mary Cardenas  
Lester L. Parker (excused)

Joel G. Guzman (excused)  
Kelly Sorenson

Late arrival:

Luis Carlos Sandoval Jr.

**Agenda**

1. Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum.
2. Review and Approval of minutes from the last Fair Housing Task Force Meeting held August 20, 2009.
3. Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Presentation by Tom Serrano, Senior Grant Planner, Community and Human Development
4. Survey of Available Rental Housing Units for Persons with Disabilities Presentation by Bill Bennett, ADA Coordinator, City of El Paso
5. Discussion of Fair Housing Task Force and Sub-Committee Assignment of Impediments

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.

**Item 2:** Review and Approval of minutes from the last Fair Housing Task Force Meeting held August 20, 2009.

Motion made by Larry Garcia and seconded by Delia Chavez and unanimously carried to accept the minutes as written.

AYES: Lisle H. Davis and Rafael Hernando III

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

**Item 3:** Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Presentation by Tom Serrano, Senior Grant Planner, Community and Human Development

Mr. Serrano, a staff member of the Community & Human Development Department, explained that the HPRP is a presidential stimulus program with the goal to prevent chronic homeless. To participate, the household income must be at or below 50% of the Area Median Income and be located within the City limits.

The program will begin October 1, 2009 and consist of two parts. The Homelessness Prevention part is to assist persons who are on the "verge" of homelessness. Assistance with rent or utilities is an example where a little assistance is sufficient to get the household back on track. This is the short term part of the program and provides assistance up to three months. The agency to contact is El Paso County General Assistance.

The second part is an eighteen month program that provides case management to work with individuals on long term goals such as job search education, GED, retaining plan, etc. Participants are required to keep to a very strict schedule to accomplish their goal(s) within 18 months. If an individual goal will take longer, then they can not participate in this part of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. TVP is the contact for the long term goal of the HPRP.

Mr. Serrano provided attendees contact information for TVP and General Assistance. These agencies are to be funded for three years to assist with the prevention of chronic homelessness.

**Item 4:** Survey of Available Rental Housing Units for Persons with Disabilities Presentation by Bill Bennett, ADA Coordinator, City of El Paso

Bill Bennett explained that presently for rental complexes of 4 or more units, 5% must be handicapped accessible. This means ready to move in and includes roll-in showers. At City Council on September 1, 2009, the Builder's Association proposed that the 5% requirement be reduced to 2% based upon data that they had compiled.

City Council would like to address this issue in 6 months once additional data is compiled to either validate the data supplied by the Builder's Association or to determine that the data is not correct. Presently VOLAR and the El Paso Apartment Association are conducting a survey of "ready to move in units" for persons with disabilities in complexes built since 1993.

During the Fair Housing Task Force meeting, extensive discussion addressed other issues such as the El Paso Ordinance being a compilation of various regulatory sources, the lack of a uniform checklist for City Inspectors to follow for new construction and rehabilitation of handicapped units, the lack of adequate advertising of handicapped units, and handicapped units which are indicated for certain complexes but on further investigation find that the units have been modified and are no longer accessible units.

The Chair requested that Mr. Hernando, who is a member of the City Accessibility Committee, serve as a liaison with the Fair Housing Task Force. An item will be placed on the next agenda in order that Mr. Hernando can update the Task Force on the progress of the survey.

**Item 5:** Discussion of Fair Housing Task Force and Sub-Committee Assignment of Impediments

Task Force members agreed that Item 5 would be addressed at the next Task Force meeting. It was noted that there are several impediments that address accessibility. The Chair asked Mr. Hernando to serve on the subcommittee that addresses impediments.

As a result of the open meetings requirements that subcommittee meetings be posted, the Task Force members will break out into subcommittees during the regular Task Force meetings. Each subcommittee will provide a report to be part of the Task Force minutes and these reports will be used to develop the annual report to City Council. The Chair asked staff to poll members prior to the next meeting as to which subcommittee(s) they choose to work on. This will assist in establishing the subcommittee members and perhaps assist in planning should members wish to serve on more than one subcommittee.

**Item 6:** Discussion and approval of the Next Meeting Date

Task Force members agreed that the current date had worked well. A Motion was made by Larry Garcia and seconded by Lisle Davis and passed unanimously that the October meeting will be scheduled at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 27, 2009. Future meeting will be scheduled at each Task Force meeting.

AYES: Delia Chavez, Rafael Hernando and Luis Carlos Sandoval  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN None

Mr. Larry Garcia entered a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lisle Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously

AYES: Delia Chavez, Rafael Hernando and Luis Carlos Sandoval  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None

Approved as to form:

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Rhoda Tillman, Board Secretary

c: All Attendees