

MINUTES
FAIR HOUSING TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 1, 2013
Pat O'Rourke Recreational Center
701 Montana / Room 105
3:30 PM

The Fair Housing Task Force met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. Task Force designated Chair Mr. Jerry Romero present and presiding and the following Committee Members answered roll call.

Members Present

Mr. Terry Breaux
Ms. Susette Kenney
Ms. Alma Miller
Mr. Marc Salazar
Mr. Sergio Vasquez

Members Absent

Ms. Veronica Carbajal

Late Arrivals

None

Early Departures

None

Ex-Officio Members Present

None

Staff Present

Rhoda W. Tillman, CDBG Contract Administrator and Fair Housing Officer

Agenda

Discussion and Action on:

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from the last Fair Housing Task Force Meeting held October 1, 2013.
3. Review of City of El Paso First Time Homebuyer Program statistics pertaining to the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice – El Paso Impediment #5 - “Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA)” which states that the AI analysis shows that protected classes experience disparities in home mortgage lending and high-cost loans.
4. Review El Paso’s Utilization of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) Clearinghouse for Persons with Disabilities to Locate Affordable Housing and Community-Based Services
5. Review the Purpose of the Fair Housing Task Force
Existing: Analysis of impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)
Proposed: Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH)
Presentation: Rhoda Tillman, CDBG Contracts Administrator and City of El Paso Fair Housing Officer
6. Approval of the Next Meeting Date
7. Adjournment

Item 2: Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum

Motion was made by Mr. Vasquez, seconded by Mr. Salazar and unanimously passed to approve August 6, 2013 minutes, as revised.

AYES: Mr. Breaux; Ms. Kenney; Ms. Miller; Mr. Salazar; Mr. Vasquez

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Ms. Carbajal

Item 3: Review of City of El Paso First Time Homebuyer Program statistics pertaining to the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice – El Paso Impediment #5 - “Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA)” which states that the AI analysis shows that protected classes experience disparities in home mortgage lending and high-cost loans

Ms. Tillman presented a summary of the number of first time homebuyer closings that have been made through the City of El Paso First Time Homebuyer Program from 2006 to 2012. The percentage of closings indicated that 90.5% or more were protected class households. These loans include City funds and loans from various market lenders. The City data helps to support the findings of the task force that disparities are not occurring in home mortgage lending in El Paso.

Item 4: Review El Paso’s Utilization of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) Clearinghouse for Persons with Disabilities to Locate Affordable Housing and Community-Based Services.

Ms. Tillman stated that she has been in contact with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The Clearinghouse is being modified at this time but information will be provided as to updating the system by providers as well as what information can be provided by the City Fair Housing Task Force to education the public.

Item 5: Review the Purpose of the Fair Housing Task Force

Existing: Analysis of impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)

Proposed: Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH)

Presentation: Rhoda Tillman, CDBG Contracts Administrator and
City of El Paso Fair Housing Officer

Ms. Tillman explained that HUD is proposing a new approach to further fair housing which would no longer utilize the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) would be no by used. The New Rule is oriented to integrating communities. Proponents of the New Rule believe cities such as El Paso have more segregated areas by ethnicity and/or income than is normal for the size of the City. Advocates believe “social engineering” is the answer to provide an even playing field where “all” people would have the same advantages to jobs, education, transportation, etc. Until further guidance from HUD is provided, the task force agreed that the committee should continue under the current requirements of addressing identified impediments to fair housing choice.

Committee members agreed that they would review the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) and discuss what priorities the committee would like to address.

Item 6: Approval of the Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for November 5, 2013.

Item 7: Adjournment

Motion made by Ms. Kenney, seconded by Mr. Vasquez and unanimously carried to adjourn this meeting at 4:40 pm.

Approved as to form:

Rhoda W. Tillman, Board Secretary