



SAN DIEGO CITY-COUNTY REINVESTMENT TASK FORCE



Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 21, 2017, 12:00 PM
County Administration Center
7th Floor Meeting Room
1600 Pacific Highway, Downtown San Diego

For information, contact Daisy Crompton, RTF Manager
 San Diego Housing Commission
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ATTENDANCE

Present:	Antonio Barbosa	Cher Stingo	Elizabeth Schott
	Chi Elder	Krista Torquato	Andrea Sorce
	Rockette Ewell	Ricardo Flores	Adrian Granda for Supervisor Roberts
Absent:	Ron Roberts	Rossina Gallegos	Stephen Russell
	Barbara Bry	Kyra Greene	

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Elizabeth Schott called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. The 7th floor tower room is temporarily being used as office space, so the meeting was relocated to the 6th floor tower room.

ITEM 2 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ITEM 3 TASK FORCE MEMBER COMMENTS

- **Small Business Boot Camp:** ACCION’s free training event will be held Saturday, October 14 and have separate tracks for new and growing businesses. (Elizabeth Schott)
- **LISC** is in the process of creating an investment fund that will support affordable housing throughout the county. (Ricardo Flores)

ITEM 4 STAFF REPORT

- The **RTF’s survey** of member banks’ reinvestment activity was distributed at the beginning of July and is due back in September. RTF members will review a report of the findings at the November meeting.
- The **Housing Commission** released “Addressing the Housing Affordability Crisis: San Diego Housing Production Objectives 2018-2028,” which identifies six challenges and the five most effective ways San Diego could build more housing, along with quantifying production targets for each.
- **October’s meeting** is expected to be a workgroup meeting related to next year’s Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) campaign.

ITEM 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 19, 2017 Special Meeting and June 15, 2017 Regular Meeting were approved on a motion by Chi Elder, seconded by Rockette Ewell, and passed by a vote of 8-0. A printing error previously delayed approval of the January minutes.

ITEM 6 Action Item: Update to RTF Bylaws

The RTF was one appointee short of the number needed to vote on an update its bylaws, and will reschedule the vote for a future date. The change will allow members' alternates to vote on action items and minutes, and to be counted towards quorum.

ITEM 7 Discussion Item: Current RTF Collective Action Projects

Staff provided an update on two collective action projects that the RTF has previously discussed, an online affordable housing search tool and a 2018 free tax preparation and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) initiative. The lead agency for the online search tool is the Housing Commission, which has split the project into two phases: preparing a robust database that will power the search function, and creating the user interface or website for conducting searches. The first phase is underway, with SDHC staff scouring and cleaning the database that will support the search function. The target date for completion of this phase is late winter/early spring.

The EITC campaign remains in the early planning stages and will ramp up in late fall, with a focus on outreach to participants in SDHC's programs and residents of affordable housing complexes countywide. Initiative partners (RTF members) will help their networks get tax service information out to potential clients and help to identify and coordinate with potential housing complexes for delivery of mobile and virtual tax prep services. RTF members will also help to provide financial education in conjunction with tax services.

ITEM 8 Information Item: Local Fair Housing Studies

Branden Butler, Senior Attorney at the Fair Housing Center of The Legal Aid Society returned to the RTF to provide a deeper dive into the fair housing testing work the Center does and what they've found. Mr. Butler provided an overview of national and local housing discrimination studies, noting that San Diego exhibits many of the same traits and trends that are found nationally. He shared study findings that showed "secret shopper" fair housing testers with the same education and income but different race or ethnicity were treated differently by prospective landlords, realtors and home sellers.

Discussion and follow-up questions centered on testers' work with mortgage lenders, factors that are used to determine a fair housing rating, whether the Fair Housing Center tests for immigration status or national origin, how the Center follows up and attempts to change discriminatory behavior, and how RTF members can be helpful. During public comment, David Oddo inquired whether the Center uses Home Mortgage Act Disclosure data, and was told it's used when they select lenders to test. Mr. Oddo also provided a written statement and asked, with 40 years having passed since the RTF's founding, "What is it going to take to end this problem?"

Mr. Butler announced that next year's San Diego Fair Housing Conference will be held in mid-spring 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Elizabeth Schott adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Daisy Crompton – Reinvestment Task Force Manager
San Diego Housing Commission