

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council - Commissioners Court Meeting	Item ID	35603	Agenda Number	46.
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Meeting Date:	9/25/2014	Department:	Neighborhood and Community Development
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a one-year contract with AUSTIN TENANTS' COUNCIL to fund and administer the Tenants' Rights Assistance Program for community education and information about tenant protection laws in an amount not to exceed \$288,729.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Operating Budget of the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office. Funding is contingent on the release of Fiscal Year 2015 federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant and the Housing Fund.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	September 26, 2013 - Council approved a one-year contract ending September 30, 2014.
For More Information:	Contact Elizabeth A. Spencer, Director, 512-974-3182; or Fernando Hernandez, Housing Development Manager, 512-974-3114.
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

If approved, funding will be provided for a one-year contract to the Austin Tenants' Council (ATC). Services to be provided by ATC under the contract include: mediation and related services to assist at least 514 clients to resolve housing code issues with their landlords; provide mediation services to at least 85 eligible clients in general housing matters; and investigate complaints of violations of the Fair Housing Act. The contract term shall be from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

Tenants' Rights Assistance provides services to tenants residing in the Austin city limits. Objectives of this program include: 1) facilitating mediation services between landlords and low-to moderate-income tenants to complete health and safety related repairs in rental units, which will help maintain reasonable habitability standards; 2) providing direct counseling and technical assistance to low-income renters regarding tenant/landlord issues; and 3) identifying fair housing complaints that can be investigated and may assist in resolving, reducing or minimizing discriminatory housing practices.