



LOW INCOME CONSUMER ADVISORY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION 20150501-03D

Date: May 15, 2015

Subject: Pending Energy Efficiency Contracts in the Multifamily Energy Reduction Program

Motioned By: Cyrus Reed

Seconded By: Karen Hadden

Recommendation

By Motion made and passed by a majority vote of the Low -Income Consumer Advisory Task Force on May 1, 2015, the Task Force is requesting that the Austin City Council in regard to the recent suspension of activity in the multi-family program direct Austin Energy to honor those program commitments to contractors and property owners that are documented with a signed contract or letter of intent initiated under the currently suspended Multi-Family program rules.

Description of Recommendation to Council

Under its Multi-Family program Austin Energy has placed the approval of certain energy efficiency contracts on hold because of potential changes in the program requirements. This recommendation is a showing of support by the task force for having the contracts move forward under the programs rules that were recently suspended for review and possible updating. T

Rationale:

During Citizen's Communication on April 17, 2015, David Malone, Owner of First Choice Energy- reported on revisions to the Multifamily Energy Reduction Program (MERP) that has delayed pending contracts that have been signed under good faith. He requested the Task Force look into this matter and honor the pending contracts. He added that stopping multifamily rebates could lead to lay-off of multifamily contractors. Denise Kuehn, Director of Energy Efficiency Services provided clarification on the changes to the program noting that Austin Energy (AE) did not stop the contracts; they were slowed by Council.

The Task Force asked extensive questions. There was general concern expressed that the city should honor program requirements in place until the program is formally amended or terminated. Task Force member, Lanetta Copper volunteered to prepare a resolution for the consideration of that a resolution for discussion and possible action on May 1, 2015.

Vote

For: Carol Biedrzycki, Tim Arndt, Lanetta Cooper, Karen Hadden, and Cyrus Reed

Against: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Richard Halpin, Dan Pruett, Chris Strand, and Kelly Weiss

Attest: *[Staff or board member can sign]*

Carol Biedrzycki