

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	63554	Agenda Number	12.
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Meeting Date:	10/20/2016	Department:	Health and Human Services
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Subject

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Section 2-1-127 relating to the Community Development Commission.

Amount and Source of Funding

No funding requested.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:

Prior Council Action: On June 18, 2015, City Council amended the ordinance to reflect the current composition of the Community Development Commission.

For More Information: Shannon Jones, Director, Health and Human Services Department, (512) 972-5010; Donna Sundstrom, Assistant Director, (512) 972-5038; Maria Allen, HHS Manager, Neighborhood Services Unit, (512) 972-5086; Elena Lloyd, Agenda Coordinator (512) 972-5033.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

The City of Austin Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) receives Community Services Block Grant funds through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). The allocation for the current grant period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 is \$1,092,098. These funds support HHSD's six (6) Neighborhood Centers and three (3) outreach sites. The Community Development Commission serves as the required CSBG Advisory Board for HHSD.

Texas Administrative Code Title 10, Part I, Chapter 5, Subchapter B Rule §5.213 and the CSBG Act requires a tripartite board, which is to include representatives from three sectors – public, low-income, and private. The required composition is as follows:

- 1/3 shall be elected public officials, holding office on the date of the selection, or their representatives
- not fewer than 1/3 of the members are persons chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that these members are representative of low-income individuals and families in the neighborhood served; reside in the neighborhood served; and are able to participate actively in the development, planning implementation, and evaluation of programs funded by CSBG; and
- the remainder are members of business, industry, labor, religious, law enforcement, education, or other major groups and interests in the community served.

During a recent TDHCA monitoring visit, the current structure of the Community Development Commission was

determined to be deficient, as the current number of members is 16, which is not divisible by three. Currently, the Mayor appoints 8 members to the Community Development Commission which represent both the public and private sectors. The other 8 members are elected by the low-income neighborhoods they represent.

The amended ordinance would reduce the number of members appointed by the Mayor to seven (7). Of these, five (5) will represent the public sector and two (2) will represent the private sector. The number of representatives for the low-income sector will remain at eight (8) for a total CDC membership of fifteen (15). Due to a vacancy of one of the mayor-nominated seats, no current Community Development Commission members will be impacted by this change. The amended ordinance will also specify the CDC as the required CSBG Advisory Board and will set forth the number of members representing each sector.

This Code amendment addresses a Deficiency identified in the recent TDHCA monitoring visit that requires immediate attention. City staff continues to work with the CDC and TDHCA to address another issue characterized as a Concern by TDHCA in the same monitoring visit. That Concern deals with the CSBG Act requirement that the Commission be representative of not just City constituents but also those within the County since the CSBG geographic area that this grant serves is all of Travis County. Staff continues to work with the CDC and TDHCA on addressing this Concern and plans to present a follow-up Code amendment to Council to correct it. In the meantime, City Staff recommends that Council take up this Code amendment to address the Deficiency.

Performance Measures

The City of Austin’s Neighborhood Centers contribute to several of the City’s performance measures including:

Measure	Goal
Number of unduplicated persons served for the first time by the Neighborhood Services Activity for basic needs:	60,000
Number of unduplicated persons served by the Public Health Nursing activity	7,000
Percent of clients who followed through with referrals to a health provider	85%
Number of jobs obtained by individuals enrolled in the employment support services program	50
Number of unduplicated households receiving case Management through Neighborhood Services Unit	315
% of households enrolled in self-sufficiency case management who report a reduction or elimination of income barriers	75%