08/03/17 Agenda
Item No. 58
Initiated by: MPT Tovo

Late Backup

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the 2015 American Community Survey data reveals that the City of Austin is comprised of 55.65% renter-occupied households; and

WHEREAS, renters are experiencing high amounts of displacement due to redevelopment, rehabilitation, demolitions, rent increases, changes in property management, emergency situations, evictions, and other factors; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20121101-039 and Resolution No. 20121108-05 catalyzed the creation of tenant relocation standards and emergency tenant displacement response procedures; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20151112-027 acknowledges the extreme burden of displacement on households and initiated amendments to the Land Development Code that were codified in the Tenant Relocation Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, displacement is especially difficult for households with children if it occurs during the school year; and

WHEREAS, multiple resources for tenants exist within the public and non-profit sector; however, these resources are not consolidated into a single document or website; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan supports "the creation of a 'real-time' database of available affordable housing units, services, resources, and incentives to strengthen the process of connecting qualified buyers and renters with affordable housing to comprehensively lower monthly household expenses"; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint also affirms this goal and notes that "at the department level, additional local funding for staffing and administration may be necessary to create and monitor this database"; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Task Force on Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequities recommended that the City create an online database listing all available affordable housing units, while highlighting affordable units accessible to health clinics and community centers; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) and the Housing Authority of the City of Austin through Austin CityUp are currently creating a data hub of all subsidized and unsubsidized complexes with affordable units within the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the City Auditor's June 2016 Language Access Audit cited data from the American Community Survey that "14% of Austin residents reported speaking English less than 'very well' " and that city departments "must take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by individuals with limited English proficiency"; and

WHEREAS, Austin's renters need to know the rights granted to them under the Texas Property Code and the City Code of the City of Austin; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNTIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council directs the City Manager to add additional information to the existing Resources for Renters webpage on the NHCD website.

This webpage should contain information about all City of Austin resources available to multi-family and mobile home households displaced through redevelopment, rehabilitation, foreclosure, and other circumstances.

This list should also be published in languages identified in the City Auditor's 2016 Language Access report spoken by individuals in each Council District who speak English less than "very well." The list should consist of the following resources and information, as well as any other resources the City Manager deems relevant:

- Austin Independent School District and Del Valle Independent School District's policies and resources for children impacted by displacement, as well information about AISD's newly developed Language Line;
- Austin Energy and Austin Water's policies for households who experience displacement, such as waived hook-up fees;
- Contact information for the Austin Tenants' Council, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Building and Strengthening Tenant Action (BASTA), and other tenants' organizing groups;
- The Housing Authority of the City of Austin's waitlist policy regarding income-eligible households who have been displaced;
- Travis County's eviction appeals and record expungement processes;
- Information about how to request affordable or free translation services.

The website may also contain linked information to county- and state-funded programs that can assist households experiencing housing insecurity, such as 2-1-1 information, as well as websites that aggregate local social services providers, like Aunt Bertha.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to update the NHCD website with these additional resources, and other resources she deems to be appropriate, no later than 120 days after the adoption of this resolution. Stakeholders that may be able to contribute to this website include: Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, Austin Tenants' Council, the Austin Apartment Association, Caritas, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, and other local service providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to continue her work on creating a database of subsidized and unsubsidized affordable housing developments within the Austin city limits with features such as average rental prices, unit size, number of bedrooms, number of bathrooms, and other features, as well as their proximity to amenities such as health clinics, schools, grocery stores, transit, and community centers~~.~~, and characteristics that help renters identify areas of higher opportunity.

The City Manager is directed to formulate a cost estimate required for the creation and management of such a data hub and, if necessary, to prepare an item for Council consideration during the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget process.

ADOPTED:_____, 2017 **ATTEST:**_____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk