



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2963, **Agenda Item #:** 33.

9/19/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a one-year contract with Austin Tenants' Council to fund and administer the Tenants' Rights Assistance Program, which provides community education and information about tenant protection laws, in an amount not to exceed \$284,202.

Lead Department

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department. Funding is contingent on the release of Fiscal Year 2019 federal funds from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant.

Prior Council Action:

September 28, 2017 - Council approved a one-year service agreement to expire September 30, 2018 with one -12-month extension.

For More Information:

Rosie Truelove, Director, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, 512-974-3064; or Fernando Hernandez-Garza, Neighborhood Development Program Manager, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, 512-974-3114.

Additional Backup Information:

Tenants' Rights Assistance Program 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.

Austin Tenants' Council (ATC) has more than 19 years of experience assisting tenants. Under the contract, ATC will provide mediation and related services that will assist at least 527 clients with resolving issues related to health and safety repairs and general housing matters; and will investigate Fair Housing Act complaints. The contract term will be from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.