



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#16-0030

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: February 2, 2016

TITLE: Resolution Accepting the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution to accept the Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice prepared for the City of Fort Lauderdale (City) by the Housing Opportunities Project For Excellence, Inc. (HOPE).

Background

Every five years, the City is required to submit its AI (Exhibit 1) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as part of the City's Consolidated Plan.

This item was originally presented on December 15, 2015 (CAM 15-1570). However, this item was deferred to address comments from the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale (HACFL). HACFL Executive Director, Tam English, expressed concern that there were errors in the Public and Assisted Housing Section of the report. Specifically, Mr. English indicated that the chart on page 21 (*inventory of Federally, State and Locally Assisted Rental Housing in Fort Lauderdale*), which was produced by the University of Florida's Shimberg Center, had errors. City staff explained that the Shimberg Center was the data source and that staff could add HACFL's comments to the Analysis of Impediments regarding this data. Additionally, Mr. English indicated that the data used for SunnyReach Acres and Suncrest Court was inaccurate. Staff provided HACFL with a copy of the reports that the HACFL staff supplied as part of developing the Analysis of Impediments. Staff advised that if the HACFL could provide updated reports, if applicable, then City staff could make any needed changes. To date, City staff has yet to receive any updated reports.

On July 7, 2015 the City Commission approved the draft Consolidated Plan (CAM #15-0438) and it is currently under HUD review. The AI is the final step in the City's Consolidated Planning process.

On July 8, 2015, HUD released a final rule on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, clarifying and simplifying existing fair housing obligations for HUD grantees to analyze their fair housing landscape and set locally determined fair housing priorities and goals

through an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH). Under the new rule, the AFH will replace the AI. The rule creates a streamlined AFH planning process, which will help communities analyze challenges to fair housing choice and establish their own goals and priorities to address the fair housing barriers in their community. The City will be required to complete an AFH with the 2020 Consolidated Plan, which will be initiated in October 2019.

The purpose of the AI is to identify impediments to fair housing choice and recommend strategies on how to mitigate the impediment. The AI lists the following seven impediments along with strategies to overcome them (Exhibit 1). Below is a list of the impediments:

- **Impediment #1:** No region-wide commitment to fair housing and no active, coordinated effort designed to encourage equal access throughout the region.
- **Impediment #2:** Continued need for on-going fair housing education and outreach efforts to reach the City's growing, diverse population.
- **Impediment #3:** High levels of segregation remain between Whites and African Americans.
- **Impediment #4:** Shortage of, and, barriers to programs and services that connect people to available affordable housing and homeownership.
- **Impediment #5:** Overall lack of public awareness regarding all relevant fair housing laws and the extent of their protections; how to identify discriminatory housing practices; and, the vehicles through which redress can be sought.
- **Impediment #6:** Violations of federal, state, and local fair housing laws in the jurisdiction, with significant representation of complaints of discrimination by persons with disabilities.
- **Impediment #7:** Fair and equal lending disparities.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative included within the Neighborhood Enhancement Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 5: Be a community of strong, beautiful, and healthy neighborhoods.
- Option 2: Ensure a range of housing options for current and future neighbors.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan 2035*: We are community.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Jonathan Brown, Sustainable Development

Department Director: Jenni Morejon, Sustainable Development