



HATC Action Item IV. B
March 4, 2021

Resolution No. HATC-2021-02: To Recommend to the Travis County Commissioners Court via an Amendment to its Articles of Incorporation, the establishment of an HATC tenant Commissioner ex-Officio position on the HATC Board of Commissioners.

WHEREAS, as the governing body for the Housing Authority of Travis County, the Board of Commissioners is responsible for providing leadership and oversight; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of a non-voting, ex-Officio Tenant member to the HATC Board of Commissioners is intended to ensure that the interests of HATC tenants and clients are represented; and

WHEREAS, an ex-Officio Tenant member can provide an important perspective on the most pressing issues facing the community of HATC residents and clients.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of HATC hereby:

1. Approves Resolution No. HATC-2021-02,
2. Authorizes the Executive Director to execute all necessary documents and extensions.

Passed and approved the 4th day of March 2021

DocuSigned by:
Robby Meyer

Robby Meyer, Chair, Board of Commissioners

Attested and approved as to form:

Patrick B. Howard

Patrick B. Howard, CEO / Executive Director

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Background Information:

On April 14, 2016, then Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt issued a letter the current members of the Boards of both the Housing Authority of Travis County and the Strategic Housing Finance Corporation, requesting the resignations. This was done in an effort to provide greater continuity and to better align its strategic priorities by having both boards “composed of the same five members.” (See Attached)

This process of board vacation and re-appointed concluded in June 2016, resulting in the current composition of five board members of the Housing Authority of Travis County, all of which who also presently serve on the board of the Strategic Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC).

With the establishment of re-constituted Boards, the composition of the Boards no longer included a Tenant representative. Although not a requirement for HATC, as per Section 392.0331 of the Texas Local Government Code due to the fact the agency has less than 750 units, having a Tenant representative on housing authority boards is a widely accepted best practice.

At its 4 February 2021 Board meeting, the Board discussed options for future Board composition with the goal of ensuring that tenant representation. HATC legal counsel and Travis County staff contributed to this discussion.

The *Governance, Finance and Administration* Committee met subsequent to the February Board meeting, and collectively agreed on the option of recommending to the Travis County Commissioners Court the addition of an Ex-Officio Tenant representative to the HATC Board of Commissioners. The recommended term of appointment for the proposed position would be indefinite.

Recommended Action:

Consideration and appropriate action regarding **Resolution No. HATC-2021-02:** To Recommend to the Travis County Commissioners Court via an Amendment to its Articles of Incorporation, the establishment of an HATC tenant Commissioner ex-Officio position on the HATC Board of Commissioners.

Alternate Option:

The Board of Commissioners could elect to Not recommend the establishment of ex-Officio position.

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Attachments:

- A. Letter from Judge Sarah Eckhardt, date *April 14, 2016*

Prepared and Approved by:

Patrick B. Howard

Patrick B. Howard, *CEO/Executive Director*



OFFICE OF TRAVIS COUNTY JUDGE SARAH ECKHARDT

April 14, 2016

To the Attention of the Boards of the Housing Authority of Travis County & the Strategic Housing Finance Corporation Boards

Dear Board Members,

The Travis County Commissioners Court is so grateful for your service. Your insights have been instrumental in our deliberations on how best to compose two boards working together for shared goals. During the Tuesday, April 12, 2016 voting session, the Commissioners Court decided that the Strategic Housing Finance Corporation and the Housing Authority of Travis County would be better served if both boards were composed of the same five members. In order to achieve this shared goal we must make the unfortunate request for resignations. Please submit the following documentation:

1. A letter of resignation effective Monday, April 18th with the understanding that you will continue to serve in holdover capacity; and
2. If you wish to be considered for appointment to both boards, complete an application, which will be sent to you under separate cover. Applications are due by the close of business on Friday, April 22, 2016 to igr@traviscountytexas.gov.

On behalf of the Commissioners Court, I would like to thank you for your service and dedication to the Travis County residents. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (512) 854-5555 or Sherri Fleming, the Health and Human Services/Veterans Services County Executive at (512) 854-4101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SE", written over a white background.

Sarah Eckhardt

Cc: Patrick Howard, Deece Eckstein, Sherri Fleming