



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Community Development - CDBG/Home

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 19, 2018

Re: Establishing the Fair Housing Task Force to Assist with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Executive Summary

This Council Report provides an update of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing requirements for the City of Columbia and a summary of establishing the proposed Fair Housing Task Force. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) is a legal requirement that federal agencies and federal grantees further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act. This report updates Council on these federal requirements.

Discussion

The City of Columbia is classified by HUD as an Entitlement Community and Participating Jurisdiction due to its population and demographics, therefore it receives an annual formula based allocation of CDBG and HOME funding. Entitlement Communities are mandated by HUD to meet federal requirements to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH). AFFH means "taking meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics." Specifically, affirmatively furthering fair housing means taking meaningful actions that, taken together, address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity, replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.

The City of Columbia previous met its AFFH requirements by completing the HUD required "Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing Choice" process. HUD's new final rule was published in the Federal Register on July 16, 2015 and outlines additional guidance for communities regarding their requirements to meet fair housing regulations. The guidance includes the new Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) tool, which staff updated Council on at its December 18, 2017 meeting. HUD did publish an update in the Federal Register on January 5, 2018, which delays the City of Columbia's required deadline to submit the AFH from April of 2019 to April of 2024. The City is still subject to the AFFH Rule and required to complete the former Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice process in order to continue to receive CDBG and HOME funding.



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Although the City is under less rigorous requirements to document its compliance with the AFFH Rule, the required Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice is still an important process that would be better informed with a robust public engagement process.

City staff proposes creating the Fair Housing Task Force consisting of a broad stakeholder group for the following purposes:

1. Assist staff Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice public engagement process.
2. Review fair housing data presented by staff and local partners.
3. Review public input collected throughout the public engagement process.
4. Provide recommendations to Council for Fair Housing Goals and Priorities.

The two key deliverables of the Fair Housing Task Force would be as follows:

1. Provide recommendations for City policies that promote and further fair housing.
2. Provide recommendations on the use of CDBG, HOME, other HUD Sources and local funds in a manner that promotes and furthers fair housing and informs the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

City staff proposes the following stakeholders groups be considered to serve on a City Council appointed Task Force: 2 Council Co-Chairpersons, Community Development Commission, Columbia Community Land Trust Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, Human Services Commission, Disabilities Commission, Columbia Housing Authority Staff, Columbia Board of Realtors Representative, Columbia Apartment Association, Social Services Provider, Home Builders Association Representative, NAACP, Local Faith Community, Central City Residents living in Census Tract 9, 21, or 7

City staff proposes the following as a tentative draft schedule subject to input from the Fair Housing Task Force, should the Council approve proceeding in this manner:

February 2018	City Council Authorize moving forward with implementing a Fair Housing Task Force.
March 2018	Fair Housing Task Force Members are identified and appointed by the City Council.
April 2018	Fair Housing Task Force Meeting , Kick-Off: Introductions, defining of roles, Assessment of Past Actions and Strategies: 2014 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, 2008 Affordable Housing Policy Task Force Report, 2015 Affordable Housing Symposium Report.
May 2018	Fair Housing Task Force Meeting: Public Engagement Process Planning.
June 2018	Public Engagement Meeting: Segregation/Integration



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	and Racially or Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty.
July 2018	Fair Housing Task Force Meeting: Review of data and public input from June 2018 public engagement meeting: Common themes, potential areas to focus attention.
August 2018	<u>Public Engagement Meeting:</u> Disparities in Access to Opportunity, Disproportionate Housing Needs.
September 2018	Fair Housing Task Force Meeting: Review data and public input from August 2018 public engagement meeting: Common themes, potential areas to focus attention.
October 2018	<u>Public Engagement Meeting:</u> Disability and Access public input meeting.
November 2018	Fair Housing Task Force Meeting: Review data and public input from August 2018 public engagement meeting: Common themes, potential areas to focus attention.
December 2018	Fair Housing Task Force Meeting: Analysis of publicly supported housing and presentation by Columbia Housing Authority staff. Fair Housing Enforcement, Outreach Capacity, and Resource Analysis.
January 2019	Fair Housing Task Force Meeting: Review of all common themes and potential areas of focus. Formulation of recommended policies and goals.
February 2019	Fair Housing Task Force Meeting: Final review and approval of recommended policies that promote fair housing and recommendations on the use of CDBG, HOME, other HUD Sources and local funds in a manner that promotes and furthers fair housing.
March 2019	City Council considers completed AFH document for approval.
April 2019	City staff submits final approved AFH to HUD.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None



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Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Operational Excellence

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Tertiary Impact: Land Use & Growth Management

Legislative History

Date	Action
10/7/2014	City Council adopted the City of Columbia's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice within the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution to establish the Fair Housing Task Force.