

RENTAL HOUSING MEDIATION TASK FORCE
MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2011

DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, California, 93101
5:30PM

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

LEESA BECK	<u>X</u>	PARVANEH GIVI	<u>E</u>
DAVID BRAINARD	<u>X</u>	DAN HERLINGER	<u>E</u>
ROBERT BURKE	<u>X</u>	TRUDY PAUL	<u>X</u>
CHRIS CASEBEER	<u>X</u>	SCOTT WEXLER	<u>X</u>
SILVIO DILORETO	<u>X</u>	BRUCE WOLLENBERG	<u>X</u>
MARTI FURMAN	<u>X</u>	LYNN GOEBEL	<u>X</u>
JUSTIN DULLUM	<u>X</u>		

Officers: Chair Justin Dullum, Vice Chair Lynn Goebel, Secretary Scott Wexler
Staff Present: Andrea Bifano, Sr. Rental Housing Mediation Specialist

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Any member of the public may address the Rental Housing Mediation Task force (RHMTF) for up to five minutes on any subject within the jurisdiction of the RHMTF that is not scheduled for a public hearing before the RHMTF. The total time for this item is fifteen minutes. If you wish to address the RHMTF under this item, please inform the Chair before the meeting is convened.

HEARING DEVICE AVAILABLE: Voice receivers for the hearing impaired are available for loan. Please inform Chair before meeting starts if you need one.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE: If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, contact the RHMTF office at (805) 564-5420 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to allow for necessary arrangements.

Material related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Rental Housing Mediation after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Community Development Department, Housing and Redevelopment Division located at: 630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, California, during normal business hours.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the August 4, 2011

Action: Beck/Burke, 11/0/0. (Givi/Herlinger absent) Motion carried.

4. Rental Housing Mediation Task Force Budget and Program Changes for FY 2012:

Up-date: Justin Dullum, Chair noted that the RHMTF 2012 Budget page was distributed. He requested that Andrea Bifano review the page with the group. She shared that the RHMTF budget for Fiscal Year 2012 was \$184,334.00 and that the Santa Barbara City Council "One-Time General Fund Allocation" was \$73,155.00. She further shared that the office was generating approximately \$1,000 a month by billing for staff time spent assisting clients that qualified for the City of Santa Barbara's Homeless Prevention Grant. She stated that annually the RHMTF could generate at least \$12,000 from the grant. She shared that the RHMTF also had a Homeless Prevention Grant to serve Santa Barbara South County residents and that the program had billed approximately \$4,800 for FY 2010-2011. Silvio Di Loreto pointed out that the cost of the two part-time employees salaries were budgeted for \$69,113.00 which was almost the total sum of the budget shortage. A discussion ensued regarding exploring the possibility of the Task Force to assist in the RHMTF office to help off-set the cost towards part-time employees.

5. SUBCOMMITTEES:

A. *Grant Writing/Fund Raising Committee: Justin Dullum, Silvio Di Loreto, Robert Burke, Chris Casebeer, and Parveneh Givi – Report:*

Justin Dullum shared that the Grant Writing Fund Raising Committee had been meeting every Thursday, beginning June 20th and had met four times (June 20th, July 21st, July 30th, and August 4th). He shared that they had accomplished a lot. He further stated that Parveneh Givi was a professional grant writer and that she completed the draft of the Common Grant application.

Robert Burke shared that he met with a representative from the Hutton Foundation. He stated that their grant cycles were annual and the next would be in January 2012. He stated that he would like to set up a meeting with some of the grant committee members and the Hutton staff representative, as well as Mr. Tom Parker, to discuss the possibility of obtaining funds to assist the RHMTF. Mr. Burke also shared that he had been looking into the Pillsbury foundation. He further stated that he had been in touch with Marcia Baily of the Women's Economic Ventures for ideas and suggestions concerning raising funds for the RHMTF. He stated Ms. Bailey was interested in assisting the program with networking with possible grant funders.

Leesa Beck discussed the importance of naming some of the demographics in grant applications.

Silvio shared that some of the City Council members questioned whether the RHMTF clientele could pay for services. He stated that the demographics might be able to answer those questions.

Andrea Bifano stated that the majority of the RHMTF clientele were low income and that a good number of the clients received Section 8 governmental rental assistance. Scott Wexler briefly described the Housing Authority income eligibility requirements.

Silvio suggested that the group research the possibility of applying for the Dispute Resolution Programs Act (DRPA) fund money in Santa Barbara County.

B. *Mediation Training: Lynn Goebel, Trudy Paul:*

Trudy Paul shared that she regrettably would not be able to serve on the committee due to unexpected family urgent matters. Leesa Beck volunteered to join the training committee. The first meeting was scheduled for August 16, 2011 at 12:30pm.

C. *Advocacy Committee: Robert Burke, David Brainard, Leesa Beck, Chris Casebeer:*
Discussed meeting on Wednesdays or Fridays at 4:30pm. Meeting to be scheduled.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

Silvio Di Loreto discussed the issue of researching the possibility of expanding the RHMTF mediation services to include the mediation of gangs. David Brainard added that training gang case manager staff might be something to consider. Discussion ensued. Silvio stated that he would like the subject to be placed on a future RHMTF Agenda.

Robert Burke brought up the subject of making the RHMTF a Charter Member/Commission. He stated that after inquiring with the City's Financial Director, it appeared that the RHMTF might be the only City Advisory Committee that had to work on raising funds to maintain their existence. He stated that he would like the subject to be placed on a future RHMTF Agenda.

Lynn Goebel discussed the subject of researching sliding scale fee as the information would be needed while exploring the possibility of charging clients for RHMTF mediation services. She requested that the subject be placed on the September Agenda.

Silvio Di Loreto brought up the issue of re-contacting the Santa Barbara Rental Property Association to see if they would be willing to make a donation.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting: September 1, 2011.

Justin Dullum shared that the Mayor's office indicated that they would be able to provide Barbara Smith Sherrill with a Letter of Recognition signed by the Mayor on September 20, 2011. It would be the first on the City Council Agenda under Ceremonial items.

Scott Wexler shared that he would be away from August 8, 2011 until August 29, 2011.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM.