# RENTAL HOUSING MEDIATION TASK FORCE MINUTES APRIL 5, 2012

# DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM 630 GARDEN STREET

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dullum at 5:30 p.m.

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

(X = Present A = Absent E = Excused)

Officers: Chair Justin Dullum, Vice Chair Lynn Goebel, Secretary Scott Wexler

Staff Present: Andrea Bifano, Sr. Rental Housing Mediation Specialist

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

# 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 1, 2012.

Action: Burke/McDermott 8/0/0. (Beck/Brainard/DiLoreto/Givi/Paul/Wollenberg

excused). Motion carried.

## 4. BUDGET AND PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013:

A. Discussion and recommendation to the City Council on position regarding stabilizing funding for the Rental Housing Mediation Task Force.

Justin Dullum, Chair shared that the City's proposed budget would be presented to City Council on April 17, 2012 by Jim Armstrong, City Administrator and Robert Samario, Finance Director. Further, he shared that the meeting would kick off the budget process and individual budget hearings. He stated that the Community Development Department budget hearing, which would include the Rental Housing Mediation Task Force, would be held on May 16, 2012 beginning at 2:00 pm. Discussion ensued with regard to the best approach to share the Task Force's position to City Council regarding the continuance of the program and the need for stabilized funding. Various ideas were shared including: the reading of a letter prepared by the Task Force, which would be entered into the record of the budget meeting; encourage public comment to be voiced on the actual day of the Community Development Department Budget Hearing, and the need to fill out speaker slips listing the Item number for the Community Development Department budget on the speaker slip. Andrea Bifano shared that Paul Casey, Assistant City Administrator, Sue Gray, Administrative Services Manager and Deirdre Randolph, Community Development Programs Supervisor would attend the next RHMTF meeting and answer questions related to the RHMTF budget and scheduled hearing.

## B. Subcommittee updates

Grant Writing/Fund Raising; Justin Dullum, Silvio DiLoreto, Chris Casebeer, Parvaneh Givi, and David McDermott: The subcommittee met on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Justin Dullum, Chair gave a brief summary of the meeting and the updates for the month. Chris Casebeer and Andrea Bifano met with a local bank representative regarding a possible philanthropic donation and related upcoming Request for Proposal. David McDermott spoke to a number of representatives from various banks and inquired about their Community Reinvestment Act Funds. The Emergency Solutions Grant for Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention service was applied for by City staff and declined by the County of Santa Barbara. The agencies that received funds were listed on the County of Santa Barbara's website. The majority of the available funds went to the Good Samaritan in the North County and Transition House.

Advocacy; Robert Burke, Leesa Beck, David Brainard, Chris Casebeer and Silvio DiLoreto: The subcommittee met on Wednesday March 21, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Robert Burke, Advocacy Chair, gave a brief summary of the meeting which included a collective effort to write a letter to City Council regarding the community's need to continue the RHMTF program and its mediation services, and the need for funding from the City's General Fund to support the program. Lengthy discussion ensued. It was suggested that Dale Francisco, Council Member and Liaison be invited to attend the May 3, 2012 RHMTF meeting. Lynn Goebel, Vice Chair, suggested that the program's statistics be emailed to the Mayor and Council monthly to ensure that they were made aware of the number of citizens served by the RHMTF. Lynn Goebel further suggested that a "Press Kit" be put together covering various articles on the RHMTF and a letter requesting interested parties support. The Advocacy Subcommittee set their next meeting for April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm. The goal stated was to work on a letter to City Council, and a "press kit".

**Mediation Training Subcommittee**; Leesa Beck and Lynn Goebel: They held their meeting on April 5, 2012, by email, which included staff. They discussed and finalized the mediation training for the April 5, 2012 meeting, which entailed the review of *Mediator Opening Statements in Mediation*.

**By-laws**; Silvio DiLoreto, Dan Herlinger. Robert Burke and David McDermott: No meeting held during the month of March 2012.

#### 5. FAIR HOUSING MONTH:

Recognition of Fair Housing Month: Justin Dullum, Chair shared that the month of April was Fair Housing Month for the State of California and that Governor Brown issued a Proclamation on April 1, 2012. Further various events would be held statewide, as well as at the local level, to commemorate the importance and recognition of Fair Housing and the related laws which protect Californians from employment, housing and public accommodation discrimination, and hate violence. At the local level, an honorary Fair Housing Resolution by consent, was issued by the County of Santa Barbara in recognition of Fair Housing Month. The RHMTF, Legal Aid of Santa Barbara County and People United for Economic Justice Building Leadership through Organizing (PUEBLO) were named in the Resolution. Additionally, the Santa Barbara Rental Property

Association would hold a Seminar on Fair Housing on April 19, 2012 with Diana Burno, Executive Director, Fair Housing Council of San Fernando, California.

#### 6. CASELOAD REPORT AND MEDIATION TRAINING: (Mediation training .5 hours)

- A. March 2012 Statistics: The March 2012 statistics were discussed and distributed. This included a breakdown of unduplicated units of service provided to City of Santa Barbara, City of Goleta, City of Carpinteria and the Unincorporated Areas of Santa Barbara County. Staff referenced the statistical reports and shared that 145 unduplicated clients were served during the month of March. The report included Mediations, Staff Consultation, Issues in Dispute, the breakdown of Ethnicity and Race, as well as, the percentage of Housing Authority clients served.
- B. Mediation Training: (Compliance with Dispute Resolution Programs Act): The Mediation skill training consisted of the review of Mediator Opening Statements in Mediation. The Mediator Opening Statements in Mediation document was distributed and reviewed by the Task Force. Mediators were instructed to continue to review the document at home.

## 7. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>:

None.

#### 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Trudy Paul's mother recently passed away. The Task Force expressed their condolences, and stated they would send a card to Trudy.

#### 9. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.