



Agenda Report

July 20, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Housing Department

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION OF THE SUBMITTAL TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) OF THE 2020 ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that upon close of the public hearing the City Council take the following actions:

- 1) Find that the recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines per Section 15061 (b) (3), the General Rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment;
- 2) Approve the submission of the 2020 City of Pasadena Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and
- 3) Authorize the City Manager to execute, and the City Clerk to attest, the 2020 City of Pasadena Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report, certifications, and any and all other documents deemed necessary by HUD to ensure the City's efforts to affirmatively further fair housing.

BACKGROUND:

As a recipient of entitlement funds including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) programs, the City of Pasadena is federally required to make efforts to affirmatively further fair housing choice. In July 2019, the Housing Department hired a consultant to conduct an analysis of Pasadena to identify fair housing impediments, and make recommendations for addressing each.

The 2020 City of Pasadena Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report (the "2020 A.I. Report"), (Attachment B) provides an overview of laws, regulations, conditions, and other possible obstacles that may affect an individual's or household's access to housing. "Fair housing" is defined as a condition in which individuals of similar income levels in the same housing market have a like range of choice available to them regardless of their characteristics as protected under State and Federal laws. "Impediments" to fair housing are defined as:

- Any actions, omissions, or decisions taken because of the characteristics protected under State and Federal laws, which restrict housing choices or the availability of housing choices; or
- Any actions, omissions or decisions which have the effect of restricting housing choices or the availability of housing choices on the basis of characteristics protected under State and Federal laws.

Fair housing impediments identified in the 2020 A.I. Report, along with recommendations on how to address such impediments, are summarized in Attachment A. Overall the City has performed well in affirmatively furthering fair housing choice. Much progress was made on the 11 impediments found in the previous 2013 A.I. Report. The 2020 A.I. Report found six (6) impediments that are recommended to be addressed by the City. It is anticipated that most of the recommendations may take some time to implement, while others are ongoing activities. However, some recommendations can be addressed in the near term including modifying the definition of "family" in the City's Housing Code, and revising the land use classification of emergency shelter in the City's Zoning Code. The Housing and Planning and Community Development departments will collaborate on a plan and timetable to implement the recommendations.

The 2020 A.I. Report will be included as an appendix in the Five-Year (2020-2024) Consolidated Plan, which is a federally required funding document that the City Council will consider in a separate agenda item at its meeting of July 20, 2020. Progress made over the next five years on the actions recommended in the 2020 A.I. Report will be provided in the Annual Action Plan, which is a Consolidated Plan annual reporting document.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3), the "General Rule" provision of CEQA which applies to projects which may have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The approval of the submission of the

subject 2020 A.I. Report is an action to comply with a federal regulatory requirement only and is excluded from the definition of "project" pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4). Furthermore, the action proposed herein will not have a significant effect on the environment and, hence, is not subject to CEQA.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This proposed action supports the Housing Element 2014-2021, the Five-Year (2020-2024) Consolidated Plan, and Five-Year Public Housing Authority Plan in accordance with City's commitment to affirmatively further fair housing choice.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The recommended actions will have no direct fiscal impact. Approval will allow the City to remain eligible to receive funds annually from CDBG, HOME, and ESG entitlements as well as other federally funded programs requiring that the City has an adopted and compliant 2020 A.I. Report.

Respectfully submitted,


for WILLIAM K. HUANG
Housing Director

Prepared by:


RANDY MABSON
Program Coordinator

Approved by:


STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachments: (2)

Attachment A – Summary of 2020 A.I. Report Impediments and Recommendations

Attachment B - Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report