Thursday, December 10, 2009

Austin Energy RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 2

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a sponsorship agreement with AUSTIN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, INC., for a 2010 Corporate Build of a Habitat for Humanity Home, in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$65,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Relations, 322-6087.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission.

This sponsorship will be used for the construction of one new single-family home, to be sold to a family successfully completing the Austin Habitat for Humanity, Inc (AHFH) homeownership preparation program. To be selected for the program the buyer's total household income will not exceed 50% of Austin's Median Family Income (currently \$36,650 for a family of four).

As sponsor, Austin Energy will receive recognition, advertising and volunteer opportunities associated with the ten-day build, and will promote its green building and energy efficiency programs while supporting the City's goals regarding affordable housing.

AHFH's Strategic Plan for 2009-2011 outlined a commitment to serve 150 families, through building 80 new homes and repairing 70 homeowner-occupied homes. AHFH's house construction goal for 2010 is 27 new homes and its sponsorship goal is \$1.7 million.

AHFH has been building affordable homes in Austin since 1985. AHFH is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that develops affordable housing and provides homeownership opportunities for families successfully completing its program. To construct its homes, AHFH utilizes labor, paid contractors and community sponsorships. Each of the prospective homebuyers provides 400 hours of "sweat equity" and attends 24 homeownership classes to qualify for the program. AHFH also provides a zero-interest rate mortgage to the homebuyer for a term of up to 35 years.