

AGENDA



Thursday, August 19, 2010

**Health and Human Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 11

Subject: Approve an ordinance to modify City Code Section 2-1-127 (Community Development Commission) relating to the City Council's responsibility for determining the geographic representation of the Community Development Commission and designating geographic areas and organizations in accordance with Section 2-1-127.

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

For More Information: Vince Cobalis, Asst. Director, Human Services, 972-5011; Cathleen Rodriguez, Healthy Neighborhood Unit Manager, 972-5092; Laura Polio, Interim Agenda Coordinator, 972-5010.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Community Development Commission.

Prior Council Action: February 14, 2008 - City Council approved ordinance change.

The City of Austin receives an annual formula-based Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). The grant program provides funding for the delivery of basic needs, case management, preventive health and employment support services to low-income residents through the City's six (6) neighborhood centers.

Federal and State regulations require each subrecipient organization to administer its CSBG funds through either a board or another approved mechanism. The City of Austin has designated the Community Development Commission (CDC) to advise the City Council in the development and implementation of programs designed to serve the poor and the community at large.

Pursuant to Federal and State regulations, the CDC is a tripartite board composed of appointed public officials, low-income representatives selected in a democratic manner, and members of the private sector. At least one-third of the board members must be democratically elected residents of a neighborhood served by the City of Austin.

The City Code requires the City Manager to: 1) designate seven geographic areas that have either a Health and Human Services Department neighborhood center, or a Parks and Recreation Department recreation center, (City Code §2-1-127(B)); 2) designate a seat on the CDC to represent each designated area (City Code §2-1-127(B); and 3) establish by rule a method by which the residents of each area may nominate a person to serve on the CDC seat designated to represent the respective area (City Code §2-1-127(C)).

This action will amend §2-1-127(B) and §2-1-127(C) to give City Council the responsibility for 1) designating seven geographic areas and a seat on the CDC to represent low-income residents of each designated area; 2) periodically changing the boundaries of a designated geographic area and the name of a designated geographic area to adequately reflect the corresponding service area as necessary to further the purposes of the Community Services Block Grant program; 3) designating an organization that actively represents the residents of each respective geographic area to facilitate the nomination of democratically selected CDC members and 4) identifying and utilizing a range of criteria to periodically assess whether to change a responsible organization.

These changes have been reviewed and are recommend by the CDC. With these changes the City will remain in compliance with federal and state regulations.