

Late Backup

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NEEDS ASSESSMENT

April 7, 2011

Mayor and Council Members:

My name is Stuart Hersh, and like most in Austin, I rent.

The level of federal housing investment is decreasing. This has also been the case for our local housing investment such as the Housing Trust Fund, the General Fund, and the shrinking pool of General Obligation Bond funds in housing in recent years.

I am asking you to reverse the local trend. In order to address the pressing housing needs across the adopted Housing Continuum that you have adopted. Please consider the following:

1. Restore the Housing Trust Fund to \$1,000,000 as you did beginning in 2000 for most years. In order to accomplish this, make sure that all public lands that were not on the tax rolls that are now generating city property tax revenue have 40% of this revenue going to the Housing Trust Fund as required by the September 7, 2000 Council resolution.
2. Consider adopting the CHDO Roundtable report as a mechanism for establishing reasonable goals for the Action Plan.
3. Consider adopting the Home Repair Coalition report as a mechanism for establishing reasonable home repair goals for the Action Plan.
4. Provide sufficient resources for rental investment so that two rental applicants who met threshold scoring but were not fully funded last December will have the resources they need.
5. Reallocate resources from underperforming housing programs to accomplish housing goals.

As you move towards adoption of the Action Plan and the drafting of the City budget, please keep these suggestions in mind.