

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	11615	Agenda Number	14.
Meeting Date:	12/15/2011	Department:	Neighborhood and Community Development	
Subject				
<p>Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of up to \$3,000,000 in grant funds from the Community Challenge Grant Program of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; and amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20110912-005) to appropriate up to \$3,000,000 for the City's Colony Park Sustainable Community Pilot Project to plan a model sustainable and livable mixed-use, mixed-income community.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Sustainable Housing Communities. A local match of 20 percent is required which will be met by an in kind contribution of land.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
<p>A fiscal note is attached.</p>				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	August 25, 2011 – Council approved a resolution authorizing application for grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.			
For More Information:	Contact Elizabeth A. Spencer, Director, 974-3182.			
Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

This action will approve the acceptance of up to \$3,000,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to be used for planning and developing the Colony Park tract. In 2001 (Resolution No. 20010524-17), the City purchased 258 acres of vacant land in the Colony Park area. After retaining approximately 50 acres for parkland, the City transferred the remaining 208 acres to the Austin Housing Finance Corporation (Ordinance No. 20010524-18) with the intent of creating a thriving neighborhood that offered reasonably-priced housing and various amenities for the surrounding neighborhoods.

The Colony Park Sustainable Community Pilot Project is a proposed Master Planned, 208-acre development that will incorporate best practice strategies for energy-efficient building design, water conservation and zero-waste technology and standards to create a model sustainable and livable mixed-use, mixed-income community in Austin, Texas. The project will include completion of a Master Plan, resulting in Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning; engineering for subdivision and site planning for review and approval by the City of Austin; infrastructure construction plans and architectural design guidelines for new sustainable residential and commercial development. The initiative will be led by the City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office (NHCD), in partnership with the Austin Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC). The AHFC will serve as the master developer of the site and as builder for a portion of the housing. The AHFC will also partner with private sector builders for development of both single-family and multi-family housing.

The proposed project will support and further six "Livability Principles" outlined by HUD: provide more transportation choices; promote equitable, affordable housing; enhance economic competitiveness; support existing communities; coordinate policies and leverage investment; and value communities and neighborhoods. The project will also provide a platform for collaboration between the City of Austin and other local entities with national reputations for excellence in sustainable initiatives. This innovative collaboration will create a replicable model for communities across the country.

All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact of the City.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute to this grant.