

CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC HEARINGS 6/25/14 and 6/26/14

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

I am here today to praise the work product of the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development staff in working within the severe federal constraints for development of the proposed 5 Year Consolidated Plan for strategic use of federal dollars.

Beginning in 2000, the first year of the current century, we were able to integrate our planning using S.M.A.R.T. Housing policy, at least \$1,000,000 each year in the Housing Trust fund, and other local funds to be responsive to identified community needs and to remove fair housing impediments. When the new Consolidated Plan is adopted, we will not be allowed to achieve the planning and budgeting alignment that has characterized Austin in the 21st Century.

We know that the poorest among us are people at or below 30% or 50% of the Median Family Income, some of whom need Permanent Supportive Housing and/or Housing First. And we know that adoption of this plan without the City budget recommendations guarantees that we will not have goals for serving our brothers and sisters in the following geographic areas:

1. Downtown Density bonus district
2. Rainey Density bonus district
3. Airport Boulevard study area
4. Colony Park
5. University Neighborhood Overlay
6. Homestead Preservation District
7. Flood damaged homes
8. Other owner-occupied homes needing repair
9. Vertical Mixed Use
10. Transit-Oriented Development
11. Annual Permit Repair Properties agreeing to an affordability component
12. Architectural barrier removal for people with disabilities
13. Lead-based paint and asbestos abatement

With a new 10-1 Council coming aboard in just a few months, do we want to leave them with fewer housing affordability planning tools than any City Council has had this century?

Stuart Harry Hersh [REDACTED] 512-587-5093