

**Human Rights Working Group Meeting:
Gentrification and Historical Preservation
January 11, 2016**

Recommendations

Dr. Fred McGhee, Community Development Commission/Joint Sustainability Committee:

- A declaration by the Human Rights Commission that gentrification in Austin is a human rights violation and that the city's historic preservation practices have contributed to that gentrification.
- Transfer of the historic preservation office from the Department of Planning and Zoning to the Parks and Recreation Department
- Proper staffing of the historic preservation office, to include qualified professionals in the fields of architecture, history, and archaeology who meet the standards specified by the Secretary of the Interior
- Removal or reassignment of Steve Sadowsky as historic preservation officer and his replacement by Kim McKnight, the award-winning preservation planner and cultural resource specialist in the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Community based planning should be integrated at the city and made more accessible to the public, so that individuals can receive funds for projects in development, revitalization and preservation in their respective neighborhoods.

Susana Almanza, PODER:

- City owned land should be offered to 3rd party to develop affordable housing that is mixed use and 60-80% affordable units
- SMART Housing should be expanded to retain affordability by removing terms of expiration

David Whitworth, Historic Landmark Commission:

- HRC can have the most impact if you push council to make sure "Fair Housing" is part of the CodeNext criteria revising the land development code. Call for the requirement that housing options of various price points be allowed in all areas of town. That the practice of wealthy and desirable areas "opting out" of lower priced housing options no longer be allowed. When subsidies are applied inherently more affordable housing products, it makes the most of our resources and reaches the greatest number of those in need.

Other:

- City should redefine "sustainability" and "quality of life"
- City should eliminate exclusionary zoning that is economically racist
- City should create neighborhood development plans that prioritize affordable housing