

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

March 30, 2021

*City of Austin Housing and Planning Department (HPD)
1000 East 11th Street, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78702
512-974-3141*

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA).

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about **April 15, 2021** the City of Austin Housing and Planning Department (HPD) will authorize the HACA submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Project Based Vouchers funds under Title V of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998, as amended, to undertake a project known as Espero Austin at Rutland for the purpose of providing affordable supportive housing to persons experiencing homelessness. The project will be located on 2.192 acres of developed land at 1934 Rutland Drive, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78758. Estimated cost of the project is \$33,937,304, including an estimated \$1,950,000 in Project Based Voucher funds.

The project will include acquisition of the property, demolition of the existing retail building, and new construction of a 171-unit four-story residential building. The building will include elevators and three wings connected by interior hallways. The community will include on-site supportive services, business center, fitness center, community room, laundry facilities, courtyard, and covered bike storage.

Project Issues: Elevated noise from Rutland Road

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): The project has been designed to include building materials with sufficient noise attenuation to ensure the interior noise level for all residential spaces are quiet and comfortable based on HUD standards.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The HPD has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the HPD at 1000 East 11th Street, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78702 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M to 4 P.M. by appointment only by calling 512-974-3100 or emailing patrick.russell@austintexas.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the HPD. All comments received by **April 14, 2021** will be considered by HPD prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The HPD certifies to HUD that Rosie Truelove, Certifying Officer, in her capacity as Director consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the HACA to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the HPD's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the HPD; (b) the HPD has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD Fort Worth Regional Office at 307 West 7th Street, Suite 1000, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Certifying Officer: Rosie Truelove, Certifying Officer, Housing and Planning Department