



**RCA
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 12
AGENDA DATE: Thu 09/02/2004
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SUBJECT: Approve the negotiation and execution of a twelve-month contract with the AUSTIN TENANT'S COUNCIL, Austin, TX, in an amount not to exceed \$278,870 for tenant-landlord counseling, technical assistance and mediation assistance to correct violations of the City Uniform Housing Code with local amendments, public education and information about tenant-landlord relationships, tenant rights, and the federal Fair Housing Act and the investigation of housing discrimination complaints.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available in the Proposed Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Operating Budget of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development and will come from Community Development Block Grant funds. Funding is subject to Environmental Review and Fund Release.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Neighborhood Housing **DIRECTOR'S**
DEPARTMENT: and Community **AUTHORIZATION:** Paul Hilgers
Development

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Hilgers, Community Development Officer, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, 974-3108.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

The Austin Tenant's Council was established in 1973. Services provided by the Austin Tenant's Council were nominated for a HUD National Best Practices/Award for its testing and investigation of a racial discrimination complaint in an Austin apartment complex.

The proposed contract will be used to fund a portion of the Austin Tenant's Council's Fair Housing and Tenant Counseling Program that each will:

- Assist a minimum of 591 eligible, unduplicated clients, through direct counseling regarding tenant-landlord and Fair Housing rights and responsibilities
- Provide technical assistance to 103 eligible unduplicated clients to correct Housing Code violations, through ATC's Repair Mediation Process.
- Provide public education and information on tenant/landlord relationships, tenants rights, and the Fair Housing Act through 16 workshops and public forums annually.
- Provide supportive services for ATC's Fair Housing Program that investigates housing discrimination complaints through HUD-approved private fair housing enforcement activities.



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- Identify and apply for at least one other available source of Fair Housing Funding.