



City of Austin

MEMO

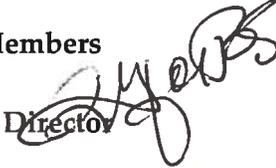
Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

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Date: April 5, 2012

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: Elizabeth A. Spencer, Director 

Subject: Update on Process for Community Land Trust Designation
Resolution No. 20120202-015

This memorandum serves to update you on the February 2, 2012, City Council Resolution to proceed with establishing a process for City designation of certain non-profits as community land trusts.

Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 373B Community Land Trusts, went into effect on January 1, 2012. This legislation authorizes local governments to designate by ordinance, non-profit organizations as Community Land Trusts. The organization must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit, created to acquire and hold land for the benefit of developing and preserving long-term affordable housing within this municipality. The purpose of this legislation and the designation is to allow the designated non-profit to apply for exemption from taxation by a taxing unit on specific community land trust properties.

In response to the new legislation, City Council passed Resolution Number 20120202-15 directing staff to work with the Community Development Commission and the Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) and other eligible non-profit organizations to implement a process for evaluation and consideration for designation as a community land trust (CLT).

The Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office (NHCD) staff is currently working with the Law Department on developing criteria for CLT designation and the associated ordinances necessary to implement a process for evaluation and consideration for designation.

A letter will be issued to the Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) Roundtable and other non-profit housing providers advising the non profit agencies of this legislation. Staff is requesting that providers submit a letter of interest for designation along with proposed inventory of property proposed as CLT property eligible for tax exemption.

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Staff is also in the process of drafting criteria to be adopted by ordinance for this designation and guidelines to implement the CLT designation process. Staff will provide a stakeholder briefing on implementation and an opportunity for community input by April 26th. A briefing will also be conducted at a future Community Development Commission on this matter.

NHCD will bring forward the proposed ordinances on a future Council agenda in late May or June. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this item.

Thank you.

cc: Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
Deborah Thomas, Division Chief, Law Department
David Sorola, City Attorney, Law Department