

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: August 30, 2017

To: The City Manager

From: D. Ritchie Brooks, Director, Community Development

Council Action Requested:

Resolution approving the Assessment of Fair Housing and authorizing its submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods

Strategic Objective: Support Inclusion of Community Populations

Strategic Plan Action Item: Yes

Key Work Item: Yes



Summary of Information:

Under the federal Fair Housing Act, HUD has long required that recipients of HUD funds certify that they are operating their programs in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing. To accomplish this, HUD's recently published regulations require recipients to complete an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH). The City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, as recipients of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds, are required to complete an AFH. As a housing authority, the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem (HAWS) is also required by HUD to complete an AFH. The City, County, and HAWS collaborated on a joint AFH that examines the Winston-Salem and Forsyth County geographies. The AFH is due to HUD no later than October 4, 2017.

Committee Action:

Committee CD/H/GG 9/12/17

Action

Forwarded to Council

For

Council Members: Clark
and Besse

Against

Opposed: None, Excused: Council
Member Montgomery

Remarks:

The City, the County, and HAWS hired Mosaic Community Planning, LLC, a consultant, to assist with the AFH. The consultant undertook a comprehensive community input process, including individual and group interviews with key stakeholders, public meetings and a community survey. The consultant also reviewed HUD-provided data and other data. The AFH studies patterns of integration and segregation; racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty; disparities in access to opportunity; disproportionate housing needs; locations, occupancy, and policies for publicly supported housing; disability and access; and fair housing enforcement and outreach resources and activities. Based on the findings of this research, the AFH proposes fair and affordable housing strategies to overcome the identified fair housing issues. The research and strategies then inform completion of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, which is due May 15, 2018. The draft AFH was made available for public review and reviewed by staff from Community Development, Human Relations, Planning and Development Services, HAWS, and Forsyth County Housing and Community Development. The Winston-Salem Office of Legal Aid of North Carolina reviewed the document also. A resolution approving the AFH and copy of the AFH are attached.