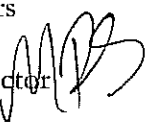


P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
www.cityofaustin.org/housing

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office

(512) 974-1049 Fax: (512) 974-3112

Date: April 10, 2008
To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Margaret Shaw, Acting Director 
Subject: Report Release: Preserving Affordable Housing In Austin

Attached please find a copy of *Preserving Affordable Housing In Austin: A Platform for Action*, an assessment by the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department (NHCD) of housing affordability in Austin, national trends and best practices on how to retain it. The report also includes recommendations as a platform for addressing the challenges in today's housing market.

The Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force recommended the City develop a comprehensive, proactive policy regarding the preservation of housing affordability. NHCD staff began researching the issue last fall and engaged stakeholders, community and industry leaders through focus groups, a public hearing, and written comments. The Community Development Commission (CDC) also took the lead in reviewing best practices from across the county and seeking advice from the University of Texas at Austin Law School's Community Development Clinic.

Staff also engaged industry experts from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Housing Trust, and the Texas Tenants Union to review and comment on its research. The report and more information on the process are available at www.cityofaustin.org/housing.

The next steps are to develop the specific action with regard to the recommendations. We will keep you updated on progress of implementation. For more information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 974-3184.

cc: Marc Ott, City Manager
Kristen Vassallo, Chief of Staff