



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 21, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration, Housing and Human Services, Community Development

SUBJECT: Adoption Of The Rental Housing Mediation Board (Former Rental Housing Mediation Task Force) Bylaws

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Approving the Bylaws of the Rental Housing Mediation Board (Former Rental Housing Mediation Task Force).

BACKGROUND:

In 1975, the Rental Housing Mediation Task Force (Task Force) began as a grassroots effort to provide a forum for landlords and tenants to resolve rental housing disputes out of court. It was formally established by the City of Santa Barbara Community Relations Commission in February 1976. Financial support was made available through general revenue sharing funds appropriated by the City Council to support human and social service agencies. The City also contributed office space and a telephone at the Franklin Neighborhood Center. The Task Force was initially staffed only by volunteer mediators, but in 1978-79 the City began using its Community Development Block Grant administrative funds to pay for two full-time Rental Housing Mediation (Program) employees. Due to a significant reduction in Community Development Block Grant administrative funds, since July 2012, the City has provided general funds to support Program services to City of Santa Barbara residents. Jurisdictions receiving Program and/or Task Force services for their residents contract with the City for these services. Additional financial support has been received from City Human Service grants and from other sources.

The Program currently functions under the City Community Development Department, Administration, Housing and Human Services Division. Program goals and objectives are not amended by the proposed bylaws.

The Task Force currently functions as one of the City's volunteer boards with support from Program staff. The Task Force appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to update and amend its bylaws. Upon City Council approval of the amended bylaws, the name of the Task Force will be changed to the Rental Housing Mediation Board (Board). The Board will continue to receive Program staff support. Please note that a version of the bylaws showing changes made has been placed in the Mayor and Council reading file and is available for review at the City Clerk's office.

PREPARED BY: Deirdre Randolph, Community Development Programs
Supervisor

SUBMITTED BY: George Buell, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office