

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN
BOARD ACTION REQUEST
RESOLUTION NO. 02604
ITEM NO.

MEETING DATE: MAY 23, 2019

STAFF CONTACT: Michael Gerber, President/CEO of HACA

ITEM TITLE: Resolution No. 02604: Objecting to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposed rule on mixed-status families and ineligible household members

BUDGETED ITEM: N/A

TOTAL COST: N/A

ACTION

The Board is being asked to approve Resolution No. 02604: Resolution objecting to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposed rule on mixed-status families and ineligible household members.

SUMMARY

Background:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has formally proposed a new rule that would disallow undocumented immigrants from living in federally subsidized housing. The proposed rule, which will be published in the Federal Register for a 60-day comment period, would impact tens of thousands of immigrant families that include U.S. citizen children and other family members who are eligible for assistance.

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin is strongly opposed to HUD's punitive proposal that would make it harder for public housing authorities to serve their communities.

This policy is directly opposed to the mission of the federal public housing program – to provide housing that is safe, decent and affordable to low- and very low-income families, children, seniors, and people with disabilities, and administer the housing choice voucher program.

HACA will be submitting public comments in opposition to the proposed rule during the comment period.

RESOLUTION NO. 2604

**OBJECTING TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT'S (HUD) PROPOSED RULE ON MIXED-STATUS FAMILIES AND
INELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (herein called "HUD") has proposed new regulations to remove "mixed families" or their family members from subsidized housing across the country, placing the burden of doing so on local housing providers;

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin currently houses over 50 families that would be impacted by HUD's proposed rule change, and implementation of said rule would result in the displacement of families;

WHEREAS, HUD's decision to retroactively apply this rule is especially unjust to current residents already receiving housing assistance provided by the Housing Authority as it breaks the current agreement and credibility the Housing Authority has established with residents;

WHEREAS, this rule change would have a significant negative impact on current families that have children that are legal citizens by forcing family members to either separate from each other or lose their home;

WHEREAS, implementation of this rule could result in current Housing Authority residents becoming homeless, putting additional strain on the Austin Police Department and City of Austin resources that assist the homeless population.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin is opposed to HUD's proposed rule change as it is unnecessarily cruel to current residents and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Housing Authority encourages the public and staff to learn more information about opposing this rule change through resources of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) and the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Housing Authority encourages the public and staff to submit public comments in opposition to the proposed rule during the comment period.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of May 2019.

Michael Gerber, Secretary

Charles Bailey, Vice-Chairperson