

44

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO AGENDA ITEM NO. 44
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Andrew Martin, City Attorney

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

SUBJECT: An Ordinance relating to the number and appointment of commissioners for the San Antonio Housing Authority, as requested by Mayor Edward D. Garza

DATE: May 23, 2003

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

This ordinance amends Ordinance 90635, enacted on October 7, 1999, to reduce the number of commissioners for the San Antonio Housing Authority ("SAHA") from eleven to five. In accordance with Sections 392.031(a) and 392.0331(b) of the Texas Local Government Code, the ordinance provides that the Mayor appoints the SAHA commissioners and that at least one of the five commissioners must be a tenant of a public housing project over which SAHA has jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND

The San Antonio Housing Authority is a municipal housing authority created in 1937 pursuant to state enabling legislation. From 1937 until 1999, SAHA was governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners, all appointed by the Mayor. In 1997, by Ordinance 87008, the City Council authorized and appointed six Non-Voting Ex-Officio members to serve on the Board of Commissioners along with the five voting members. In 1999, by Ordinance No. 90635 the City Council expanded the membership of the SAHA Board of Commissioners from five commissioners to eleven voting commissioners after state law was amended to authorize a commission of five, seven, nine, or eleven commissioners.

Mayor Garza has requested a resignation from each of the current commissioners, to become effective upon his acceptance of the resignation. A copy of that letter is attached for your reference. The term of office for four of the commissioners expired on October 18, 2002, and they serve as commissioners until their replacements have been appointed. Under Sec. 392.041 of the Texas Local Government Code, the Mayor is authorized to remove a commissioner for "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office."

POLICY ANALYSIS

The Mayor has proposed a reduction in the number of members for the SAHA Board of Commissioners in an effort to address the concerns he discusses in the attached letter requesting the resignation of the current SAHA commissioners.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the city by passage of this ordinance.

COORDINATION

This Council action has been coordinated with the City Manager's Office.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Andrew Martin", written over a horizontal line.

ANDREW MARTIN
City Attorney

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Terry M. Brechtel", written over a horizontal line.

TERRY M. BRECHTEL
City Manager



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

EDWARD D. GARZA
MAYOR

May 15, 2003

Board of Commissioners
Housing Authority of the City of San Antonio
818 South Flores Street
San Antonio, Texas 78204

Dear Commissioners:

During the past several weeks I have received a steadily increasing stream of reports from the community regarding instability at the City's Housing Authority. Initial concerns about the Mirasol HOPE VI project have not been addressed satisfactorily, and elected officials are joining together to request further inquiry by HUD into this matter. At the same time, the Victoria Courts project is facing delays and dissension within the community. Communication from the Board and from management is confused and contradictory. Not only the media and elected representatives but even members of the Board of Commissioners are openly expressing their fear that mismanagement and inefficiency will doom current development projects.

I know that you are aware of your responsibilities and the impact your conduct has on our community. The well being of thousands of families and the future of entire neighborhoods rests in your hands. The agency is managing tens of millions in grant dollars and hundreds of millions in project and program budgets. These responsibilities are too important and the obstacles too challenging for a Board that is not united in its mission and committed to working together as a team.

For these reasons, I ask that you submit your resignation from the Board of Commissioners of the San Antonio Housing Authority immediately, to be effective upon acceptance. You can provide the greatest service to San Antonio by allowing the City to start with a clean slate and to rebuild confidence in this troubled agency. Thank you for your commitment to our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EDG", followed by a long horizontal stroke.

EDWARD D. GARZA
Mayor

Cc: San Antonio City Council

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MEMORANDUM**

TO: City Council

FROM: Edward D. Garza, Mayor

COPIES TO: Terry Brechtel, City Manager; Jelynn Burley, Assistant City Manager; File

SUBJECT: San Antonio Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

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DATE: May 14, 2003

Please join me in asking staff to prepare a briefing regarding the reconstitution of the San Antonio Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Given the continuing difficulties with the management and leadership of the San Antonio Housing Authority, and given the importance of the ongoing work of the Housing Authority--particularly implementation of HOPE VI projects--it is my intent to consider a reduction in size of the Board of Commissioners to ensure greater accountability. I ask that you join me in requesting that staff provide a briefing on the following issues:

- Dissolution of the Board
- Reconstitution of the Board
- Board Member Qualifications and Geographic Representation

This briefing shall be scheduled for the first possible Governance Committee and "A" Session.



EDWARD D. GARZA
Mayor

Bobby Pérez
Council Member, District 1



Enrique M. Barrera
Council Member, District 6

John Sanders
Council Member, District 2

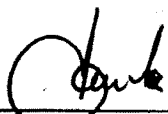


Julián Castro
Council Member, District 7

 For Discussion

Antoniette "Toni" Moorhouse
Council Member, District 3

Bonnie Conner
Council Member, District 8



Enrique "Kike" Martin
Council Member, District. 4



Carroll Schubert
Council Member, District 9

Nora X. Herrera

Council Member, District 5

David Carpenter

Council Member, District 10