



City of Santa Barbara

Community Development Department

www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov

February 17, 2016

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Rental Housing

Mediation Task Force

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County of Santa Barbara – Clerk of the Board
Attn: Michael Allen, Chief Deputy
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara CA, 93101

RE: FY 2016/17 Budget Hearings

Dear Mr. Allen,

The County of Santa Barbara has contracted with the City of Santa Barbara's Rental Housing Mediation Program (RHMP) at the rate of \$25,000 per year since 1999. In Fiscal Year 2014-15 the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a one-time increase of \$2,500 for a total of \$27,500. In Fiscal Year 2015-16 the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a one-time increase of \$10,000 for a total of \$35,000.

In order for the RHMP program to continue serving residents outside of the City of Santa Barbara, each jurisdiction needs to pay an amount equal to the percentage of the RHMP operating budget based upon the percentage of that jurisdiction's clients served. For example, in Fiscal Year 2014-15 residents covered by the County contract represented eighteen percent (18%) of total clients served by RHMP; however the County's contribution represented only thirteen percent (13%) of the program's operating budget. The program budget is estimated at \$242,371 for Fiscal Year 2016-17 and based on the clients served in Fiscal Year 2015, the County's portion totals \$43,626.

We have been informed that the Housing & Community Development (HCD) budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17 again includes only \$25,000 for RHMP services. This amount is insufficient to cover the costs of providing services to residents residing in the unincorporated areas of the County (including Isla Vista).

This letter is to request that the HCD budget be increased by \$18,626 to a total of \$43,626 on an ongoing basis.

The RHMTF program serves approximately 250 unduplicated residents per year who reside in the Unincorporated Areas of the County of Santa Barbara (including Isla Vista). Services include staff consultation and information dissemination on landlord-tenant rights and responsibilities regarding termination of tenancy cases, habitability and repair cases, security deposits cases, relocation benefits per County Code Chapter 44, invasion of privacy, discrimination, rent increases, forcible evictions, fair housing laws and referrals to appropriate social service agencies as needed. Termination of Tenancy cases, if not resolved, can sometimes result in a tenant becoming homeless.

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

630 Garden Street

PO Box 1990

Santa Barbara, CA

93102-1990

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Please let me know if I can provide you information that will assist you in your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Sue Gray
Community Development Business Manager

Cc: Dinah Lockhart, County Deputy Director HCD Administration
George Buell, Community Development Director
Deirdre Randolph, Community Development Programs Supervisor
Andrea Bifano, Sr. Rental Housing Mediation Specialist