

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING) RESOLUTION NO 98-2630
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES FOR THE)
AFFORDABLE HOUSING TECHNICAL) Introduced by Councilor Washington
ADVISORY COMMITTEE)
)

WHEREAS, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 97-2582A to establish the Affordable Housing Technical Advisory Committee to assist in implementation of Regional Framework Plan Policy 1.3 ; and

WHEREAS, Councilor Washington, as Metro Council liaison to the new Committee has met with elected officials of many of the affected cities and counties and consulted business, housing, homebuilder and other groups and the Executive Officer about appointments to this Committee; and

WHEREAS, representation of two housing authorities has been included in the recommendations for the “affordable housing provider” category; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Resolution No. 2582A is hereby amended to change the membership categories for the Affordable Housing Technical Advisory Committee to omit the “regional housing authority”

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category and change "one representative of major employers in the region" to "two representatives of major employers in the region."

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this _____ day of _____ 1998.

WITHDRAWN
Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

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STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 98-2630, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: March 25, 1998

Introduced by: Councilor Washington

Proposed Action:

The Council is asked to adopt this resolution, which deletes the category of regional housing authority and adds another major employer representative to the list of members of the Affordable Housing Technical Advisory Committee.

Background:

In December 1997, the Metro Council adopted a resolution creating the Affordable Housing Technical Advisory Committee to review data and assist in drafting an affordable housing functional plan. Membership was specified to reflect representation from various interest groups, including affordable housing providers from each county, a regional housing authority and a major employer in the region.

County chairs were asked to recommend the affordable housing providers. Two of the county chairs recommended representatives from their local housing authorities for those positions. Accordingly, it became clear that including a regional housing authority representative as required by the original resolution would be redundant. Executive Officer Mike Burton, who had been asked to recommend the regional housing authority and major employer representatives, suggested to Councilor Washington that the Council delete the regional housing authority position and replace it with an additional major employer. Mr. Burton believes that two major employer representatives would bring a more diverse perspective to the committee, since finding and retaining employees often hinges on the price of housing in the area.

Issues and Analysis:

There is little question that filling the regional housing authority position would add minimal value to the composition of the committee as it is currently appointed. Ensuring that a local housing authority representative sits on the committee is probably important, however. Because the appointment process for this committee has not been established, there is no assurance that future affordable housing provider positions will be filled with local housing authority representatives. The Council may wish to consider amending the original resolution to outline the appointment process and clarify the positions to ensure that at least one regional housing authority is represented in the next round of appointments.

Also, the Council should consider whether the substitution of a major employer representative is the best substitute for the regional housing authority position. It may be appropriate to fill that position with a private affordable housing provider since local housing authority representatives filled two of the affordable housing provider positions. Another possibility would be to leave that position empty, which would assure that housing authorities retain a spot for future appointments. There are currently 25 members of the committee - a very large group.