



Memorandum

TO: CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Councilmember Tam Nguyen

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: March 13, 2018

Approved:

Date:

3/13/2018

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT DATED APRIL 1, 1996 BETWEEN THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE AND THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY REGARDING ADMINISTRATION OF CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve staff resolution:
 - A. Directing the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of San Jose ("City Housing Authority") to give the Santa Clara County Housing Authority ("SCCHA") a one-year written notice of termination of the Agreement dated April 1, 1996, if the Board of Supervisors votes to become the SCCHA governing board.
 - B. Authorizing the Executive Director to commence negotiations for a new Agreement with the SCCHA and to return to the Board of Commissioners of the City Housing Authority with a report on the progress on the negotiation of the new Agreement, or if there is no progress, with other options for administering the programs of the City Housing Authority.
2. Update the council within six months on the status of the agreement including a presentation on current housing funds, operations and procurement.
3. Provide city wide community meetings on this subject.

DISCUSSION:

Thank you Jacky Morales-Ferrand, for taking courageous leadership action on this important service that we owe to our residents. I share her burden of frustration in dealing with housing assistance as an outsider without having any information on how it operates and without recourse.

A few months ago, I had a rare opportunity to meet with the County Housing Authority Director who agreed with me that one of the forms was misleading and difficult to understand by many people whose native language is not English, and the form was changed accordingly. But it was after the fact that many people, including my residents, had been wrongfully denied their benefits due to that form.

During my three years here at the city council, I have been over-burdened by requests from constituents for housing assistance, especially after the devastating Coyote Creek flood of 2017. And, as many of my colleagues have experienced, we had no choice but to refer the matter to the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, leaving many feeling helpless. The problem is that 40% of the funding is from the City of San Jose and 70% of the clients are residents. So it is natural that the City of San Jose should take on this responsibility and provide direct assistance to its residents, especially when dealing with the homeless crisis that is becoming more severe everyday due to lack of housing assistance.

I urge the council to approve this recommendation so that the City Housing Authority can take immediate corrective action to rectify the matter.