



# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor & City Council **FROM:** Councilmember Dave Cortese

**SUBJECT:** Proposed HAC-CDBG Merger **DATE:** October 17, 2006

**APPROVED:**  **DATE:** 10/17/06

## RECOMMENDATION

Approve staff's recommendation to consolidate the Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) and the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Steering Committee to form the Housing and Community Development Advisory Commission (HACDAC) with the following modifications to the HACDAC's proposed composition:

- Minimum of one but no more than two appointment(s) each from Council Districts 3, 5, and 7
- Minimum of three but not more than six At-Large appointments from Council Districts 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9 and/or 10.

## BACKGROUND

The proposal by staff to merge the HAC and the CDBG Steering Committee is logical in light of Council's June 2006 approval to move the administration of CDBG from PRNS to the Housing Department and given the nexus between housing policy and community development. However the guidelines for the proposed HACDAC membership must be given grave consideration to ensure adequate representation from affected neighborhoods in our city while also balancing valuable insight and perspective from other parts of the city.

At the October 12<sup>th</sup> HAC Meeting, some commissioners expressed concern about their deep interest in housing policy and community development being abrogated by the membership guidelines of the proposed HACDAC. While the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (the department that oversees CDBG) prefers representation from low-income and moderate-income neighborhoods (with Council Districts 3, 5 and 7 having a majority of such households), there is no required minimum for the number of representatives from said households on CDBG. By requiring at least one representative from each of these three Council Districts (thereby establishing 1/3 of the commission's total representation from low and moderate income neighborhoods) and establishing a ceiling of six representatives (2/3 of total commission representation), the commission is guaranteed to have a strong voice from low and moderate income communities. Allowing for the possibility of more than three "at-large" members will ensure that the City Council still has the flexibility to draw applicants from other parts of the city that may or may not reside in low/moderate income neighborhoods but share the same passion for equity in housing and community development.