



**Date:** October 17, 2014

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Constance Stancil, Director, Neighborhood Improvement Services  
**Subject:** HUD Fair Housing Contract for FY 2014-2015

### **Executive Summary**

The Human Relations Division of the Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) Department enforces local, state and federal laws, ordinances, policies, procedures and regulations dealing with discrimination in fair housing. Specifically, Division staff processes formal and informal fair housing discrimination complaints, conducts fair housing outreach, provides training, partners with community organizations and sponsors fair housing events.

The purpose of this proposed Council action is to adopt a grant project ordinance for funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for FY 2014-15. The HUD fair housing grant will be utilized by the Human Relations Division for administrative costs, operating costs, fair housing education, fair housing training and related travel, fair housing events and partnership activities.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to accept the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2014-15 Grant Funds by executing the grant documents and adopting the City of Durham Grant Project Ordinance in the amount of \$81,530.

### **Background**

A renewable contract was developed and agreed to by the Durham Human Relations Department/Commission and HUD beginning in 1995. This contract resulted from City Council action requesting legislative approval of an enhanced local anti-discrimination fair housing ordinance, making Durham's ordinance substantially equivalent to federal fair housing law.

The Human Relations Division has been certified by HUD as substantially equivalent every five years since receiving the first contract in 1995. The most recent agency certification was received on March 19, 2010 and due to exemplary performance assessments over the past five years, the agency is scheduled to be recertified in 2015. Since the Human Relations Division staff has merged into the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department, the functions relating to the grant are currently carried out under the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department. Consequently, the department is eligible to receive

funding through the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) for FY 2014-15. The funding will be used for administrative costs, operating costs, fair housing education, fair housing training and related travel, fair housing events and partnership activities.

### **Issues and Analysis**

Once approved, these funds will allow continued work in the area of fair housing compliance and to maintain the ability to perform community outreach efforts, and more effectively protect the citizens of Durham from housing discrimination. The Human Relations Staff processed a total of 28 formal cases of housing discrimination complaints from July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014 and received the following funding designated as follows:

• Case Processing:	\$ 59,280
• Training:	\$ 16,250
• Administrative Cost (AC):	\$ <u>6,000</u>
<b>Total Contract Amount</b>	<b>\$ 81,530</b>

### **Alternatives**

No alternatives are recommended because there would be inadequate funds for the Department to spend in carrying out fair housing activities throughout the City.

### **Financial Impact**

This grant will be used to support work in the area of Fair Housing. The HUD Cooperative Grant Funding specifically will be used for the following activities:

- Administrative costs associated with fair housing
- Training for fair housing administration and enforcement
- Education and outreach activities and materials
- FHAP agency partnership activities
- Salary for fair housing staff not covered in the general fund

### **SDBE Summary**

This is a grant project ordinance from HUD promoting fair housing and equality of services and therefore not required to be reviewed for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

### **Attachments**

HUD Fair Housing Contract  
HUD Grant Project Ordinance