



Meeting Date: 4/17/07

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Prepared By: Ernest Whitaker *EW* Agenda Item No. I-3  
 Reviewed By: City Manager *AKB* City Attorney *Holmberg SA* Finance *SW* Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** April 9, 2007

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Sal Gonzalez, Housing Director *SG*  
Housing Department

**SUBJECT:** Request for City Participation in National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Through Regulatory Reform

**RECOMMENDATION**

That City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution accepting the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) request that the City become an active participant in its National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Through Regulatory Reform.
2. Authorize the Mayor to execute a letter to HUD pledging the City's support for the "Call to Action".

**DISCUSSION**

The City has received a request from HUD's Washington headquarters to provide support for HUD's "National Call to Action For Affordable Housing Through Regulatory Reform". HUD anticipates holding a press conference on April 19, 2007, and is requesting nationwide support from those cities that have made efforts at regulatory reform to increase the production of affordable housing. HUD has requested both a City Council resolution and a letter signed by the Mayor.

The City was a recipient of HUD's Robert L. Woodson Award in 2005 for efforts to break down barriers to affordable housing. These previous efforts have led to the City's invitation to participate in the "Call to Action".

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial impact to the 2006-2007 budget.

(EW/hh)

Attachment #1 - City Council Resolution  
#2 - Mayor's Letter

**000011**

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD  
EXPRESSING ITS COMMITMENT TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
THROUGH REGULATORY REFORM

WHEREAS, it is critically important for communities to continually address the need for affordable housing for its citizens and workforce, particularly for nurses, firefighters, police officers, returning veterans, and service industry employees, and

WHEREAS, providing decent, attractive and affordable housing will help the economic vitality of the City of Oxnard, and

WHEREAS, housing experts agree that regulatory barriers can significantly add to the cost of housing or even prevent its construction; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) created the *America’s Affordable Communities Initiative* to help communities address the need for regulatory reform and to help reduce the costs of affordable housing, and

WHEREAS, HUD encourages local communities to develop local solutions and programs to address regulatory barriers to affordable housing, and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard was given HUD’s Robert L. Woodson, Jr. Award in May 2005 for its efforts to reduce regulatory barriers to affordable housing, and

WHEREAS, HUD, through the America’s Affordable Communities Initiative, has created the National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Through Regulatory Reform (a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”), and is asking communities to make a pledge to form task forces to examine their own regulations and to become a participant in the National Call to Action, and

WHEREAS, the National Call to Action will create a network of participants around and the country that can share progress, ideas, solutions and information with one another, and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard finds it to be in the public interest of serving its citizens to commit to the pledge and to become a participant in the National Call to Action,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City of Oxnard hereby accepts HUD's call to become an active participant in its National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Through Regulatory Reform; and
2. The City of Oxnard will further use its Affordable Housing Team to explore its laws and regulations with the goal of reporting back to the City Council within one year from the date of this Resolution with recommendations for changes in the regulatory framework that will help produce more affordable housing for Oxnard's workforce.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2007, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Thomas E. Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Martinez, City Clerk

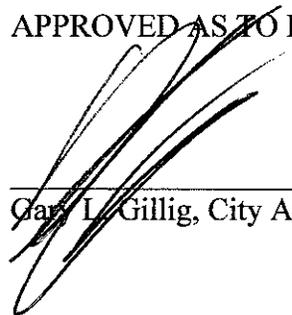
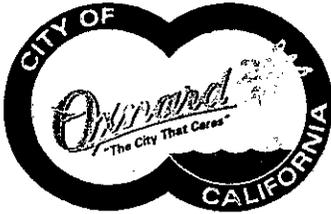
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary L. Gillig, City Attorney

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DR. THOMAS E. HOLDEN  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
305 West Third Street • Oxnard, CA 93030 • (805) 385-7435 • Fax (805) 385-7595  
E-mail: drtomholden@aol.com

April 17, 2007

The Honorable Alphonso Jackson  
Secretary of the United States Department of Housing  
and Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC 20410

Re: The National Call to Action For Affordable Housing Through Regulatory Reform

Dear Secretary Jackson:

On behalf of the City of Oxnard I am pleased to accept the Department of Housing and Urban Development's invitation to become a participant in the *National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Through Regulatory Reform*. In honoring our pledge, we intend to continue to seek out ways to reduce regulatory barriers to affordable housing in Oxnard.

The City of Oxnard was honored to have received an initial Robert L. Woodson Award in 2005 for the City's efforts to break down barriers to affordable housing. The City's streamlined housing regulatory scheme has produced more than 144 homes and apartments in the City since receipt of the award, with over 742 units currently in various stages of planning or construction.

Like HUD, I believe it is imperative that we address the issue of regulatory reform at the local level and develop homegrown solutions to ensure even more affordable housing opportunities to working families. I also appreciate your understanding that it is important to address this issue at the local level with local solutions. We look forward to exchanging news and information with the Department and our fellow participants throughout this great nation. Through our mutual efforts, there is no doubt more Americans will find a place to call home.

I have asked Sal Gonzalez, Housing Department Director to be HUD's primary contact for this very important effort. Should you have any questions, Mr. Gonzalez can be reached at (805) 385-8094 or by email at [sgonzalez@oxnardhousing.org](mailto:sgonzalez@oxnardhousing.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas E. Holden  
Mayor

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