

Opportunities in 2016

Tucson Residents for Responsive Government

TRRG Opportunities to Be Involved During 2016

Special event — A Conversation with Michael Ortega, Saturday, January 9, 2016

Don't miss the Saturday, January 9, 2016 special event, A Conversation with Michael Ortega, 1-3 P.M. at the Ward 6 Community Room, 3202 E. First Street. Enter by the South-west door.

Preparation for Annual Meeting Workshop, April 30, 2016

The TRRG Process Task Force is researching public participation opportunities at Mayor and Council Study Sessions and Regular Sessions. There will be a workshop as part of the April 30, 2016 TRRG Annual Meeting to give members the chance to hear the Task Force findings and to weigh in on recommendations. If you do not regularly follow the Mayor/Council sessions, it would be helpful for you to become familiar with the format prior to April 30, 2016. This is easy to do, since City of Tucson Channel 12 broadcasts them live on Cox Channel 12 and streams they live on its website, Tucson 12. It also replays them three times on Cox Channel 12 that week, and they are available at website, Tucson 12, for viewing at a time of your choosing.

Mayor and Council Study Sessions are regularly held in the afternoon of days when regular sessions are held at 5:30 in the evening. The meeting dates announced for January are Tuesday, Jan. 5 and Wednesday, Jan. 20; February 9 and 23; March 8 and 22; April 5 and 19.

Short Survey Request

Forwarded for your consideration from City Housing and Community Development:

Dear Neighbor,

The City's long-term community development goal is to focus resources on community needs, particularly the comprehensive revitalization of distressed areas and areas with high levels of poverty. In developing the 5-year Consolidated Plan, Housing and Community Development Dept. (HCD) and Pima County invited members of the public to attend and participate in 14 topical public forum discussions which were held in October and November of 2014.

Topics included homelessness, fair housing, economic development, poverty, substandard housing, elderly issues, special populations, transit oriented development, neighborhood revitalization, and home ownership. In addition to the forums, HCD staff also met with eight neighborhood associations to discuss the same issues.

Based on these meetings, HCD established goals and objectives to address needs in six categories:

- Affordable Rental Housing;
- Affordable Owner Housing;
- Homelessness;
- Human Services and Economic Opportunities;
- Neighborhood Revitalization, Public Facilities and Infrastructure; and
- Special Needs Populations.

With this, we have specific funding for Human Services Programs. Each year we are provided with federal and city funds that we then make available to non-profit organizations to assist low income individuals and families. This program is administered through a Request for Proposal process (RFP) where committees then review the proposals and award contracts to those agencies that are providing services in accordance with our funding source requirements, our Human Services plan and our five year Consolidated Plan.

In October of this year, we started the process to update our Human Services plan. We began with a community conversation meeting where we invited knowledgeable representatives of non-profit agencies, government agencies and council office representatives asking them to assist us in prioritizing the needs of our community. This meeting was then followed up with two additional small group meetings where we outlined these needs and addressed the restrictions imposed by the funding sources. We also discussed the decline in funding which has been the trend for the past several years.

In order to ensure a broader participation, Housing and Community Development is now seeking public and stakeholder feedback by asking you to complete an on-line survey that will assist us in prioritizing the issues discussed at the earlier meetings. The link to the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCDHSPLAN>. This survey is currently open and will close on Friday January 15, 2016. There are 12 questions - should take about 10 minutes to complete. We will then use the results of the survey to assist our committee in developing a final plan that will then be presented to Mayor and Council for review.

With the reduction in funding for these critical programs, it is important that we obtain the insight of our constituents to ensure we focus these essential funds to the programs that address the major needs of our community.

Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Teresa Williams
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