

Subject: Item 15 on today's agenda
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 2:43:13 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Matthew Cunningham
To: 'Trevor O'Neil'
CC: Justin Glover

Trevor:

Sorry for the late notice, but wanted to flag Item 15 – a contract with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to conduct the Fiscal Year 2020-2024 Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice study.

The purpose of a Regional AI Study is to identify and evaluate potential obstacles or impediments, in both the private and public sector, to a person's ability to choose their residence free from discrimination, and to recommend actions that address such impediments in a 5-year Fair Housing Action Plan.

The Lawyers Committee is a political advocacy organization with a definite ideological viewpoint when it comes to housing policy. This is abundantly clear from even a cursory review of its website. For example, the Lawyers Committee conducted a similar study for Los Angeles in 2017, and included rent control among the recommendations (see bottom of (Page 6):

<https://lawyerscommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/12-6-2017-City-of-LA-Final-AFH-Plan-Only.pdf>

The Lawyers Committee is supportive of inclusionary zoning:

“Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center – Inclusionary Zoning

The Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) is dedicated to eradicating housing discrimination throughout the greater New Orleans area through education, investigation, enforcement, and policy. The Lawyers’ Committee is assisting GNOFHAC on advocating for New Orleans to adopt an effective inclusionary zoning policy, which promotes socio-economically and racially integrated housing. The recently released Draft Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) includes a voluntary inclusionary zoning program that offers a density bonus to projects that set aside a certain percentage of the units as affordable. The Lawyers’ Committee and GNOFHAC submitted comments to the City Planning Commission to strengthen this program. Visit GNOFHAC here.”

<https://lawyerscommittee.org/project/fair-housing-and-community-development-project/cases-matters/policy/>

<https://lawyerscommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/4-28-11-Strategies-to-Affirmatively-Further-Fair-Housing.pdf>

The point is the Lawyers Committee is a political advocacy group with a pronounced ideological viewpoint that guides its actions. It has a track record of advocating housing policies the Anaheim City Council has already rejected a number of times. These should serve as red flags and the council might consider the possibility of postponing this item or even re-issuing the RFP.

Matthew Cunningham
Pacific Strategies

matt@pacific-strategies.com

“Fortis Fortuna Adiuvat”