

Austinites Lobbying for Municipal Accountability

Keeping the Power in the Hands of The People



A.L.M.A.

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The Accountability Project – for Affordable Housing Programs:

- I. **A.L.M.A.** launched **The Accountability Project – for Affordable Housing Programs**, after a number of citizens' complaints were made that centered on a common issue. That common issue is the **alleged mismanagement of certain housing programs** and *how* the citizens who participate in those programs are/were affected.
- II. **Questions are raised with regard to the management of certain affordable housing programs:**
 - 1) **general practices enacted by program managers & other public officials i.e.:**
 - a. are **contractual & H.U.D. guidelines** consistently followed?
 - b. have program **participants' rights** been violated?
 - c. have **fiduciary duties** been fulfilled or misused?
 - d. are **contractor violations** and **poor workmanship** consistently **reported & penalties enforced?**
 - e. Verity of **Recordkeeping** and **Evaluation Reports:**
 - loan repayments, application of funds and other **financial reports;**
 - **contractor evaluations** and contractor re-qualification applications;
 - **project status** & completion reports;
 - project **delays** &/or **abandoned projects;**
 - 2) **Does management follow through with what it represented it would do?**
 - 3) **Accountability of:** Program Managers; Program Contractors; Public Officials
 - 4) **how effectively are our tax dollars being applied? ... and WHO is benefiting?**
 - 5) **what is the end result for certain program participants and their homes?**
 - 6) **Does the City maintain its obligatory stance of neutrality; OR is preferential and protective treatment given to certain contractors?**
- III. **A.L.M.A. aims to keep homes & families safe from misuse of power by holding its public officials accountable.**
- IV. **A.L.M.A.'s goal with The Accountability Project is:**
 - 1) **To hold Public Officials and programs Accountable;**
 - 2) **maintain &/or restore ethical & exemplary management practices of these housing programs;**
 - 3) **Develop and implement a plan that will:**
 - a. **safeguard** from potential mismanagement in the future.
 - b. **provide** realistic, **effective** and **responsive** **avenues for participants to enforce accountability & restore equitable treatment.**
 - c. **protect** participants rights via writing and implementing more **equitable contracts** on behalf of the participant.
 - 4) **Acquire a thorough investigation by a neutral & objective party. As part of the Investigation, A.L.M.A. requests that:**
 - a. ALL program participants dating at least as far back as 1990, be notified of the pending investigation, and that they ALL be given the opportunity to provide comments, **free from the fear of retaliation.**
 - b. ALL program participants are allowed to formally question the manner in which the status of their projects were reported.
 - c. The application of funds for each project be thoroughly traced; and determine whether its legitimacy is disputed by the participant.
 - d. If participants no longer own the property that was the subject of the program, determine WHY.
 - e. Review the number of foreclosures & vacant lots; how many are owned by the City; how many were sold; and WHAT circumstances prompted the **foreclosures, sales, vacant lots, or municipal ownership** – contact the previous program participants to get their side of the story.

A.L.M.A. welcomes your support. We hope that **The Accountability Project** will provide relief for previous housing program participants; and **assurance and protection for future housing programs in the future.**

A.L.M.A. thanks the Gray Panthers of Austin, Travis County Green Party, Austin Housing Pinch, ANC & KOOP radio & P.A.C.T.V.

Cordially,

Allissa Chambers, Chair – Austinites Lobbying for Municipal Accountability



A.L.M.A.

A.L.M.A. is a community coalition concerned about Housing Programs & Land Grabs
A.L.M.A. insists on Government Accountability & Mopping Up **Misuse Of Power.**