DATE: September 14, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Howard W. Brown Jr., City Manager

PREPARED BY: Derek R. Hull, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Summary of Residential Code Compliance Task Force Meeting and list of Applicants for Consideration of the Task Force.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Mayor and City Council make one appointment each to the Residential Code Compliance Task Force.

BACKGROUND

On July 27, 2016, the City Council authorized the City Manager to establish a Residential Code Compliance Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force is to establish a committee of residents that can meet independently, collect additional feedback from other residents, review comments and provide the City Manager and staff with policy recommendations related to code compliance issues. There are several reoccurring code violations throughout the City of Bell but among the most reoccurring violations include the following:

- Drive Additions and Vehicle Parking
- Unpermitted Garage Conversion
- Other Unpermitted Residential Construction (Room Additions)

Staff was directed to convene an initial meeting to the general public to discuss the activities and responsibilities of Task Force members. On Wednesday, August 17, 2016, the Community Development Department staff conducted the first open meeting of the Residential Code Compliance Task Force. The staff in attendance included Hector Vasquez and Derek Hull. Approximately fourteen (14) residents attended the meeting and all expressed an interest to serve as a Task Force members.

DISCUSSION

In general, the residents were excited to take part in the Residential Code Compliance Task Force meeting and they all expressed an interest in participating in future meetings, even if they are not selected to serve on the Task Force. For Council’s benefit I have summarized the general overview, including opinions and concerns expressed during the meeting:
1) The residents have requested that Code Enforcement Officers participate in upcoming meetings and go through the Code Enforcement procedures and to educate the Task Force members on the various sections of the Code and the more commonly occurring violations.

2) The residents expressed an interested in keeping the Task Force continuing pass the 4-month time period, even on an ad hoc basic.

3) Instead of relaxing some of the codes, a number of residents expressed a desire to make the Codes more stringent. (A number of residents would like for the Code Enforcement Division to do more enforcing).

4) The residents would prefer to meet at 6:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of every month. The residents are also willing to meet more than one a month if required.

5) All residents present at the meeting were given an application unless they had already completed an application.

6) Due to the number of residents interested in serving on the Task Force, staff would recommend that even though Council will select 5 members, if residents still want to participate in meetings, they should be allowed to attend meetings and all meeting should be open to the general public.

7) The residents expressed an interest in obtaining a copy of the municipal code either on flash drive, cd rom, and/or hard copy. Staff will provide copies of the code available but staff did explain that the various code sections are throughout the entire municipal code and not just one section.

The City Council extended the deadline to receive applications for Task Force members until Friday, August 26, 2016.

The following residents submitted a completed application for the Task Force:

Antonio Darila         Carlos Cazares         Lindsay Frank
Marcos Olivia         Robert Mackin         Rodrigo Rodarte
Ali K. Saleh          Silvia Martinez       Trina Mackin
Oscar Reynaga         Roger Ramirez         Alex Paredes
Ismael Garcia         Marina Acosta

CONCLUSION

Staff is recommending that Mayor and City Council make one appointment each to the Residential Code Compliance Task Force.