

Mayor Regina Romero, City of Tucson
Lane Santa Cruz, Councilmember Ward 1
Paul Cunningham, Councilmember Ward 2
Paul Durham, Councilmember Ward 3
Nikki Lee, Councilmember Ward 4
Richard Fimbres, Councilmember Ward 5
Steve Kozachik, Councilmember Ward 6
City Manager Michael Ortega

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

The Barrio Neighborhood Coalition (BNC) is bitterly disappointed by your recent decision of January 7th, 2020, to cancel the Anti-Displacement Task Force, and instead, reinstate the defunct Metropolitan Housing Commission. The BNC has spent the past year and half, meeting with council members, city staff and the City Manager, working to create a small, but nimble, Task Force, represented by residents of our most-impacted Barrios and neighborhoods. Our goal was to quickly develop potential policy changes and solutions to the pressing issues of gentrification and displacement.

Instead, the specter of urban renewal, with its disregard for the human/social impact, still haunts us today. Your decision will cause unnecessary delays, while more tax incentives attract developers and speculators who seek to profit on the backs of ordinary community members. With each passing day, we lose more of our city's history and rising property values and rents put more of our community members at risk.

The Barrio Neighborhood Coalition urges you to alter course. By appointing an Anti-Displacement Task Force now, and giving the most affected residents a seat at the table, your message will be loud and clear. The lessons of urban renewal have been learned, and never again will we discount the value of any community member or the contribution they make to our collective society.

We look forward to working with you as valuable partners for creative solution-making.

Sincerely,
Barrio Neighborhood Coalition
Bnctucson1@gmail.com