

From: [REDACTED] et
To: [Desmond, Jim](#); [MontgomerySteppe, Monica](#); [Anderson, Joel](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#)
Cc: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] PARTICIPATE IN VIENNA SOCIAL HOUSING FIELD STUDY (please include with documents for agenda #1)
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025 7:49:52 AM

Hi Supervisors,

Well, it looks like two of you were incited (maybe even invited?) to this housing meeting as a ‘renowned leader’ where it looks like you will be paying \$15,600 plus airfare, hotel, food, and junket costs (bringing it up to \$40 thou for two people) for a course given by people who have told you that Friday is either September 26 or 27, and there will be a meeting on Friday (or Thursday) to discuss it all.

The Board letter says it is being given by development consultants, which sounds very much like it might be a targeted business course.

Interestingly, the Board letter says “Vienna’s housing model demonstrates successful strategies for integrating low- and moderate-income housing across diverse neighborhoods, reducing housing insecurity, and fostering mixed-income communities,” which is what we’ve done, so I’m not sure what more we can learn from this.

I also am a bit worried when I see “Vienna’s internationally recognized social housing model provides over 60% of its residents with affordable housing options,” since we do not need affordable housing (AKA ghettos) on that scale.

To be honest, I'm all for foreign travel, understanding other cultures, and vacay time, but I think there are better uses for \$40 thou.

Regards,

Paul Henkin