CITY OF ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Agenda Date: June 1, 2009

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Foreclosure Workshop

REPORT BY: Beth Pollard, City Administrator

MAYOR ATKINSON RECOMMENDATION

That the City sponsor a workshop on foreclosure prevention, and that Council refer it to the Social & Economic Justice Commission for its involvement.

BACKGROUND

Earlier this year, the City Council asked the Social & Economic Justice Commission to explore the issue of economic impacts to Albany residents from foreclosures. The Commission will make its report at the June 1 City Council meting.

DISCUSSION

There is a local businessperson, Audi Constance, who conducts workshops for property owners who are at risk of foreclosure. She has offered to conduct a workshop in Albany to help residents with strategies to avoid foreclosure.

Council previously referred its concern about Albany foreclosures to the Social & Economic Justice Commission. Accordingly, the Commission could play an important role in developing and publicizing the workshop to reach residents needing foreclosure prevention assistance.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Helping to prevent property owners from losing their home ownership due to foreclosure fosters a supportive community and reduces the number of vacant properties.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no charge to the City for the workshop services. The City would donate the use of a City owned facility for a few hours, and pay for the cost of photocopying flyers and staff time to post information on the website and KALB.