



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Recommendation Number: 20140127-004a

WHEREAS, The African American Quality of Life Initiative was established in March 2005 by the City of Austin to address the disparity in the quality of life that African-American residents experienced from other Austin residents; and

WHEREAS, The City of Austin committed to 56 initiatives set forth by the African American Quality of Life Initiative during the two-year period of January 2006 to January 2008; and

WHEREAS, Despite the City of Austin's implementation of the initiatives set forth by the African American Quality of Life Initiative, the 2010 United States Census data revealed that the poverty rate, median income gap, and unemployment rate has increased among the city's African-American residents; and

WHEREAS, The Austin Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) expressed concern that the City of Austin has not invested the resources necessary to reduce the disparities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Human Rights Commission recommends the Austin City Council to direct the African American Resource Advisory Commission (AARAC), City Manager, representatives of the NAACP, as well as other stakeholders, to identify needs and opportunities for financial investment in the city's African-American community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Human Rights Commission recommends the Austin City Council to direct the City Demographer to publish an updated African American Quality of Life Scorecard for the fiscal year 2014-2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Human Rights Commission establishes an African American Quality of Life working group to collaborate with the AARAC, the NAACP, and other stakeholders to identify needs and financial investment opportunities of at least \$15 million in the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget to address and improve the standard of life for African

Americans and to report findings to the Human Rights Commission; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED That the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission deliver a copy of this resolution to all members of the Austin City Council, the Mayor, all members of the AARAC, the City Manager, the Chief of Police, the City Demographer, and the President of the Austin Branch of the NAACP.

Date of approval: January 27, 2014

Record of the vote: approved on a unanimous vote. Commissioner Luu motion, Commissioner Brenner second.

Attest: _____


Jonathan Bablak, Administrator, Equal Employment & Fair Housing Office & Liaison, Austin Human Rights Commission