



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Recommendation number: 20140430-004: Response to Human Rights Commission Recommendation for Additional Funding

WHEREAS, the African American Resource Advisory Commission (the "Commission") is authorized by Austin City Code§ 2-1-101 to advise the City Council on issues related to the quality of life for the City's African American community; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is specifically authorized to recommend programs designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront African Americans in social, economic, and vocational pursuits, including (1) health care; (2) housing, including affordable housing, home ownership, and homelessness; (3) entertainment opportunities for professionals and students; (4) employment; and (5) cultural venues, including museums, theaters, art galleries, and music venues; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission of the City of Austin has recommended that the City Council direct the African American Resource Advisory Commission (AARAC), the City Manager, representatives of the NAACP, as well as other stakeholders, to identify needs and opportunities for the financial investment of at least \$15 million in the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget to address and improve the quality of life for African Americans and report their findings back to the Human Rights Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has received reports from stakeholders on a regular basis of the continued existence of disparities and inequities in the areas originally identified in the African American Quality of Life Initiative: Arts, Culture & Entertainment; Business & Economic Development; Employment & Education; Health; Neighborhood Sustainability; and Police & Safety.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION, IN SUPPORT OF AND AS DIRECTED BY, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, RECOMMENDS TO THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL THAT AN EXPENDITURE OF \$15 MILLION BE DISTRIBUTED EQUALLY (\$2.5 MILLION) TO EACH OF THE SIX AREAS LISTED ABOVE (ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT; BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION; HEALTH; NEIGHBORHOOD SUSTAINABILITY; AND POLICE & SAFETY) AND DESIGNATE THE APPROPRIATE CITY DEPARTMENT TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES THAT WILL LEAD TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN.

Date of approval: April 30, 2014

Record of the vote: 4-2-1 with Commissioners Gillard and Cherry dissenting and Commissioner Eugene off the dais

Attest:


MELODYE FOUST, STAFF LIAISON