

**RECOMMENDATION  
Of  
COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS  
20140414-004C**

On increasing the number of positions on the Commission on Immigrant Affairs to include a designated seat for a Travis County representative  
City of Austin, Texas

WHEREAS, the City of Austin and Travis County have significant diverse immigrant populations and welcome them in our city and county; and

WHEREAS, as of 2012, the American Community Survey reports that 17.5% of Travis County residents are foreign-born, and

WHEREAS over 63,000 native-born children and over 16,000 foreign born children in Travis County live in families with at least one foreign-born parent, and

WHEREAS, immigrants comprise a vital part of our workforce with the majority of foreign born individuals being within the prime working ages of 25-54, and

WHEREAS, the median household income of immigrants is \$22,325 and 42% of immigrants earn less than \$15,000 a year compared to 34% of all native born individuals at the same income level; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1 in 5 immigrants in Travis County lives below the federal poverty level with 35% of the foreign-born population living in or near poverty and,

WHEREAS, Travis County has maintained a strong interest and has played an active role in this issue area through the initial development of the 2006 Immigrant Assessment and the provision of planning support to and participation in the Immigrant Services Network of Austin and,

WHEREAS, Travis County strives to maximize quality of life for all people in Travis County, protect vulnerable populations, invest in social and economic well-being, promote healthy living: physical, behavioral, and environmental, and build a shared understanding of our community, and

WHEREAS, Travis County is the primary provider of services to immigrants residing in unincorporated areas and,

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's Commission on Immigrant Affairs believes it imperative that the City of Austin and Travis County continue to assume a proactive role vis-à-vis the needs and realities of the immigrant community as a whole and align their strategies when and where appropriate and,

WHEREAS, the City of Austin of Austin constitutes a significant portion of Travis County's population,

THEREFORE, be it:

RECOMMENDED, that, in order to facilitate the synergies described above between the City of Austin and Travis County, Austin City Council approves the addition of a position to the Commission on Immigrant affairs and that this seat be designated to be filled by a Travis County appointed representative.

PASSED by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on May 20, 2014

Unanimously approved by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on a 4-0 vote with Chair, Peter Shen and Commissioner Sandra Molinari absent.

Attest:  
Connie H. Gonzales  
Staff Liaison