

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION



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Commission on Seniors

Recommendation Number: 20140514-03C.ii – Transition Taskforce Report Feedback

WHEREAS, Austin City Council Resolution No. 20131121-056 directed the City Clerk to form a task force of current board and commission members that will recommend a boards and commissions transition plan.

WHEREAS, the Boards and Commission Workgroup recommends communication and collaboration between the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and the Commission on Seniors. Their justification: common issues of healthcare, fixed income, transportation, housing, etc.

WHEREAS, they recommend keeping the commissions separate but establishing quarterly joint meetings to more formally exchange information.

WHEREAS, the Commission on Seniors is a new commission formed at the recommendation of the Mayor's Task Force on Aging and directed to: (1) advise the council on issues related to the senior population in the Austin area; (2) evaluate and recommend programs, policies, and practices that create a positive impact and reduce the burden on seniors; (3) determine the needs of seniors in the Austin community and advise council regarding these needs; and (4) promote the contributions of seniors to the cultural, economic, and historical value of Austin.

WHEREAS, the Commission on Seniors recognizes that, although there may be some common issues, there are significant differences in needs and the policies, strategies, and solutions required for appropriately serving seniors and people with disabilities.

WHEREAS, the Commission on Seniors recognizes the necessity of maintaining a separate structure to carry out the directives of the ordinance creating the Commission on Seniors.

WHEREAS, the Commission on Seniors understands and supports the value of collaborating with the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and recommends scheduling a joint meeting every six months with alternating meeting schedule between the Commission on Seniors and the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors opposes merger of the Commission on Seniors and the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and instead supports establishing a joint meeting every six months as well as ongoing communication as needed to support collaboration.

Date of Approval: 5-14-14

Record of the vote: (Unanimous on a 9-0-0 vote)

Attest: Wilkie G. Williams

(Staff or board member can sign)