

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION



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Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Recommendation Number 20140609-02A: – Boards and Commission Workgroup Report

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, having a specialized "Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities" charged with disability issues demonstrates the importance the City places on accessibility and inclusion for citizens with disabilities. As a result, this enhanced focus is part of our community culture and among the reasons for Austin being recognized as a national leader for accessibility and a multi-year finalist and winner of the prestigious Accessible America Award,

WHEREAS, over the past 32 years, working with the Mayor's Office and nine different Mayors we have always taken extra care to conduct our activities in a manner that honors the office of the Mayor. Achieving effective media communication and public awareness requires a large podium for which the distinction the "Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities" continues to be a powerful instrument,

WHEREAS, the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities served as a model for other cities in Texas and throughout the nation who now have organized similar commissions bestowed with the "Mayor's Committee" moniker. Such examples include: Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth,

WHEREAS, this acknowledgement is a uniform municipal structure that exists across our state in 44 different communities with linkages to the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities and National Council on Disabilities. Over a quarter-century of building effective community partnerships, and earning the respect and trust of citizens with disabilities and local service providers is embodied in the name the "Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities,"

WHEREAS, the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities welcomes a closer collaborative working relationship with the Commission on Seniors and all boards and commissions addressing the common issues of this committee. This Committee has historically reached out to other boards and commissions in areas of mutual interest, such as The Parks Board, The Urban Transportation Commission, The Community Development Board and The Austin Human Rights Commission,

WHEREAS, the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities understands and supports the value of collaborating with the Commission on Seniors and recommends scheduling an annual worksession between the Commission on Seniors and the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities opposes merger of the Commission on Seniors and the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, and instead supports establishing an annual worksession, as well as ongoing communication, as needed, to support collaboration. The Committee also advocates for the retention of their historic name, The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

Date of Approval: June 09, 2014

Record of the vote: 5-0 vote in favor; 2 absences

Attest:

Dolores González