



**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Recommendation Number: 20150323-4c: Accommodations for People With Hearing Disabilities**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has always assumed a leadership role in the areas of human rights and equal opportunity, especially the rights of individuals with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, attendance and full participation at public meetings by people with disabilities furthers the goals of human rights and equal opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, an individual with a hearing disability who accesses a public meeting through remote transcription services, such as Communication Access Real-Time Translation or "CART" services, may not be able to fully participate in public meetings if he or she looks away from the CART screen to read a written presentation, observe a speaker, take notes, document questions reserved for a public comment period, and the like; and a basic transcript from the CART services provider would enable the citizen to later obtain any information that he or she missed at such times; and

**WHEREAS**, basic CART transcripts are not currently provided by the City of Austin as an accommodation but can be created by the CART services provider at a minimal cost, currently \$25;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Austin Human Rights Commission recommends the Austin City Council to direct the City Manager to reevaluate accommodations for the disabled, particularly people with hearing disabilities, and revise operational and budget procedures to provide basic transcripts of public meetings upon request of a citizen who has been provided CART services as an accommodation for that meeting.

Date of Approval: March 23, 2015

Record of the vote: 6-0 in favor, Vice Chair Krueger absent.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jonathan Babel*