

Dear Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force.(LICATF) Members, August 7, 2015

Please find below a Resolution that complements items on today's Agenda. This Resolution, if passed, by this Task Force allows us to be in support of progress made by Austin Energy (AE) staff and the call from our Council leadership for bold big smart initiatives that will particularly help low income families and help our city meet its promises and potential. Most importantly this is responsive to the many concerns, complaints and requests for help that have come from our city's residents.

Richard Halpin  
Member  
Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force

Resolution:-----  
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The Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force recommends to Council \$7 million (including any roll over funds from the current fy) for low income weatherization to help very low income residents conserve energy, lower costs, reduce bad debt and have healthy home living conditions.

Background:

- \* For this Resolution 'weatherization' includes home weatherization, healthy home repair- including administration, youth employment construction jobs training & '50/50' apprenticeships, synergizing with other COA departments and a special emphasis on renters.
- \* On the job weatherization training already operates under the current weatherization funding. Trainees weatherize homes to professional standards. The envisioned short term 50/50 apprenticeship is an integral part of this training.
- \* healthy home-repair achieves a level that homes can then be successfully weatherized. This "one stop" approach comes out of the testimony the Task Force heard to synchronize these two tasks, repair then immediately weatherize. Currently occupants can wait months for weatherization to follow repair. This plan dramatically reduces the time occupants being disrupted. This plan allows coordination with other city initiatives for healthy homes, and sustainability priorities.
- \* Austin Energy (AE) has made significant progress certifying contractors and completing home weatherization. This increased investment will allow AE to continue to increase the number of very low income homes that can be repaired to healthy standards and weatherized efficiently.
- \* This is a bold initiative that creates unique opportunity to have many COA Departments working together and create more living wage jobs for diverse populations often left behind.
- \* This Resolution expands opportunities to renters as well as homeowners.