Paul Saldaña, Trustee, District 6
Austin Independent School District
1111 West Sixth Street, A250
Austin, Texas 78703-5338
Email: paul.saldana@austinisd.org
512.771-7284

August 27, 2015

Austin City Council Members
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Letter of Support for the Hispanic Quality of Life Initiative Budget Recommendations

Dear Austin City Council Members:

First and foremost, many thanks for your ongoing leadership and public service on behalf of the citizens of Austin.

Please accept this letter as my formal support for the $4,486,178 budget request to fund the Hispanic Quality of Life Initiative recommendations coming forward for your consideration. This budget request supports the significant opportunity for the City to invest in the areas of economic development, youth services, education, cultural arts, health, and civic engagement.

As the largest minority population in Austin, Texas it's imperative that we address the ongoing challenges faced by Latinos in our City. It is well documented in national, state and local data including our very own City of Austin Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Initiative Report that Latinos continue to face significant disparities in the areas of health care, education, and economics. When coupled with the fact that Austin is the most economically segregated City in the U.S. this challenge further exacerbates disparities that continue to disproportionately impact our minority communities.

Thus, it is absolutely important that our local leaders put in place policy and investments opportunities to address these ongoing challenges, because what impacts our Latino community impacts you and the quality of life for all citizens in Austin, Texas.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Sincerely,

Paul Saldaña, Trustee, District 6
Austin Independent School District

August 27, 2015

Austin City Council Members
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Letter of Support for the Hispanic Quality of Life Initiative Budget Recommendations

Dear Austin City Council Members:

It is with careful consideration that the Hispanic Advocates Business Leaders of Austin planning committee fully support the $4,486,178 budget request to fund the Hispanic Quality of Life recommendations moving forward for your consideration. The budget request supports the significant opportunity for the City to invest in the areas of economic development, youth services, education, cultural arts, health and civic engagement.

Our city's largest minority population has ben woefully under-resourced despite its assets and unique challenges. The disparities Latinos face in the areas of health care, education and economics warrant further investment of financial resources.

Latinos live, work, thrive and struggle in every single one of the districts you represent. What impacts our Latino community impacts you and the quality of life for all citizens in Austin, TX.

Thank you for your service, your attention to this matter and your support.

Sincerely,
Hispanic Advocates Business Leaders of Austin (HABLA) Planning Committee
- Celso Baéz, III.
- Marisa Y. Limón
- Alicia Perez Hodges
- José Velásquez

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 17, 2015

Hon. Mayor Steve Adler & City Council Members
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

Dear Mayor Adler & City Council Members,

Thank you for your continued support for the diverse communities that comprise our community.

I write today to express my support for the funding of the recommendations in the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Report.

As a member of the Austin ISD Board of Trustees, I am poignantly aware of the needs of the 55,000 voters I represent. Despite the recent celebration of Eastside Memorial High School meeting state standards for the first time in 13 years, we still have a long way to go: *Two of our middle schools and four of our elementary schools that failed to meet state standards this year are primarily comprised of the Hispanic students we serve here in East Austin and Dove Springs.* These schools in particular—Martin & Méndez Middle Schools and Brooke, Govalle, Rodriguez & Widen Elementary Schools—would greatly benefit from any available resources for education and youth services, as recommended in the Quality of Life Report.

I thank you in advance for your advocacy for the funding necessary to fulfill the recommendations of the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Report.

Sincerely,

Hon. Rev. Dr. Jayme Mathias
AISD Board Secretary & District 2 Trustee

Thank you for your support of our students!

1111 West Sixth Street, A-250 Austin, Texas 78703-5338 (512) 414-2413 FAX (512) 414-1486 trustees@austinisd.org

CYNTHIA VALADEZ
[redacted]

8.27.15

Honorable City of Austin Mayor and City Council Members:

My name is Cynthia Valadez and I am currently a Travis County Commissioner's Court appointee to the Travis County Healthcare District (Central Health) Board of Managers. Today I am speaking as a longtime advocate for our Latino population with decades of service and involvement in our Austin community and as one that has followed closely the deliberations of this city's Latino/Hispanic Quality of Life initiatives for the past 8 years.

For those of you that are new to the City Council, Central Health consists of 9 appointees to the Board of Managers: 4 are appointed by the Austin City Council and 4 are appointed by the Travis County Commissioner's Court, with the final appointee being a joint appointment. Central Health is a taxing jurisdiction created to provide access to healthcare for our most vulnerable population…for the indigent, the uninsured, and our working poor. As we are also currently in budget deliberations, it is with great respect that I offer the following recommendations:

1. First and foremost, I am here to wholeheartedly support the entire budget recommendations of the Latino/Hispanic Quality of Life Commission;

2. Included in our current CH budget are various health care initiatives to provide a quality healthcare services delivery system, including a new medical school and teaching hospital, but it is not focused on those public health issues that must be tackled by the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department. These are issues that relate to accessibility, community based health services, and chronic disease prevention for our general Austin population, with specific consideration of the current and changing demographics and the need to provide culturally competent strategies by staff reflective of our Austin population;

3. Included in the submitted concepts are a total of about $1.8 million for a Latino Chronic Health Initiative to be delivered through the City's Health and Human Services Department (similar to the African American Chronic Health Initiative currently funded for $800,00 by Health and Human Services). It is important to note that there is a recent proposal to address "non-traditional" health disparities, however consideration must be paid to impact the top Latino/a health disparities in terms of volumes and numbers, for example asthma, TB, cervical cancer, liver disease, obesity, diabetes, and depression.

4. Also included is a $300,000 amount to target Latinos/as for the upcoming round of Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Insurance (Obamacare). Latinos/as are the largest uninsured population, currently estimated at about 100,000 that would qualify for ACA in

League of United Latin American Citizens
District XII

www.texaslulacdistrict12.org

Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Lampasas, Lee, Llano, Williamson, Travis

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- Janie Serna
- Marcelo Tafoya
- Philip Ruiz
- Maria Acevedo

August 27, 2015

Dear Honorale Mayor Steve Adler and Honorable Council Members,

We the members of LULAC District 12 in "Good Standing", hereby request your support and vote to fully fund the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Advisory Commission recommendations for the City of Austin 2015-2016 Budget.

Futhermore, we request that you consider adding funding for a LULAC Education Service Center for $300,000 dollars. The center will be working with Parents and Students in Maritn and Mendez Middle Schools to increase enrollment direct from high school to college. Please to go this link to learn more about the Education center. www.lnesc.org

Thank You.

Repectfully,

Mr. Fedle Acevedo
LULAC District 12 Director

Please contact Fidel Acevedo at [redacted] if you have any questions.

✪ 2121 East 6th Street, Suite 401 ✪ Austin, Texas 78702 ✪