



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Human Rights Commission

Recommendation Number: 20160725-04b: Impact of Gentrification in the City of Austin, Part 2

WHEREAS, the Austin Human Rights Commission (“Commission”) advocates on behalf of human rights for all people in the city of Austin (“City”); and

WHEREAS, this Commission has been learning about, discussing and considering the impact of gentrification on Austin’s residents;

WHEREAS, the Austin Charter’s preamble announces the aspirational values of the City in the following words “*We the citizens of Austin, in reverence to the dignity and the enrichment of all people, do ordain and establish this Charter to assure economic, environmental, and cultural prosperity throughout our community;*”

WHEREAS, gentrification has an impact on the culture of indigenous communities, who face hardship when confronted with the pressures of a fast-paced real estate market, compounded by affirmative City policies that result in lack of protection of the character and history of these communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Austin Human Rights Commission recommends the Austin City Council to staff the Historic Preservation Department with professionals qualified to make historical assessments of demolition permits, furnish historical data about demolition permits dating back to the year 2000 (including how many permits has the city granted since 2000, how many were in East Austin and how many were in West Austin, how many involved historic properties, and what was the recommendation of city staff in each), and look into model Historic Preservation Departments such as the equivalent in the city of San Antonio where professionals of various backgrounds are involved in preserving and maintaining the culture and history of the city, taking into account the disadvantages of indigenous populations in its recommendations.

Date of Approval: July 25, 2016

Record of the vote: Commissioner Brown motion, Chair Davis second, adopted 8-1; Commission Miller opposed, Commissioners Miguez and Royall absent.

Attest: _____

Jonathan Babich