



COMMISSION ON SENIORS RECOMMENDATION 20161109-03A

Date: November 9, 2016

Subject: Recommendations on the Draft Austin Housing Plan

Motioned By: Vice Chair Varteressian

Seconded By: Commissioner Gray

Recommendation

The Commission on Seniors recommends 1) incorporating the goals and strategies of the Age Friendly Austin Action Plan into the Draft Austin Housing Plan and 2) including a strategy and sufficient funding to expand and publicize home repair, maintenance and modification assistance for seniors, consistent with the third goal in the Housing Domain of the Age Friendly Austin Action Plan.

Description of Recommendation to Council

The recently adopted Age Friendly Austin Action Plan includes the following goals and strategies related to affordable housing for seniors:

Goal: Expand and promote the development of diverse housing options that are affordable for seniors of different income levels.

Strategies:

1. Encourage the development of new and innovative models of affordable housing (multigenerational, co-housing/cooperative housing).
2. Increase and prioritize funding for affordable housing for seniors (housing bonds, housing trust fund).
3. Expedite the City's permitting process and promote flexible zoning.
4. Increase outreach and community awareness about diverse housing options.
5. Increase access to rent and utility assistance programs to keep seniors in their homes.

Goal: Support and expand affordable housing options for seniors.

Strategies:

1. Fund improvements and renovations of public housing for low-income seniors.
2. Replicate successful models of mixed income senior housing communities and encourage redevelopment.
3. Address the impact of increasing property taxes.

Goal: Expand assistance for affordable home repair, maintenance and modification for seniors of all income levels.

Strategies:

1. Expand support for the Austin Housing Repair Coalition.
2. Increase home access for seniors through design modification that improves safety and “visitability.”
3. Improve access to energy efficiency and weatherization programs.
4. Expand the Village concept to engage volunteers and neighbors to help with simple, preventative maintenance.

Rationale:

The greater Austin area is experiencing rapid growth in the population of residents age 55 and older. Affordable and accessible housing is a primary concern for Austin residents as they age. Austin currently lacks affordable housing options for those seniors who wish to age in place in their own homes, as well as those who would like the option of living in a housing community designed for seniors.

Vote

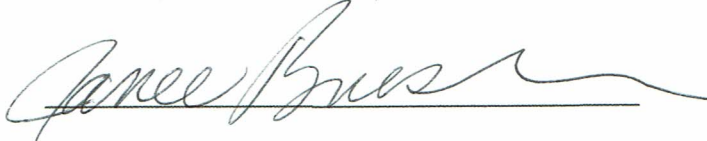
For: Briesemeister, Varteressian, Bordie, Cagle, Cohen, Garcia-Pittman, Gray, Kareithi, Lugo, DeMaria Nicola, Van Sickle.

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lauck, McDowell, Pruett

Attest: Janee Briesemeister, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janee Briesemeister", written over a horizontal line.