



## COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

### Commission on Seniors

Recommendation Number: 20170412-3C:

Recommendations on the Community Needs Assessment for the FY 2017-18 Annual Action Plan, the City of Austin's application to receive formula grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

WHEREAS, the greater Austin area is experiencing rapid growth in the population of residents age 50 and older; and

WHEREAS, affordable and accessible housing is a primary concern for Austin residents as they age. Seniors need and request assistance with affordable housing options, including the option of aging in place in their own home; and

WHEREAS, Austin currently lacks adequate 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; and

WHEREAS, seniors are often living on fixed incomes, and many live in poverty; for example, according to the city demographer, the median household income for seniors in Austin is \$44,251 compared with \$55,744 for all households.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors submits the following comments on the Community Needs Assessment:

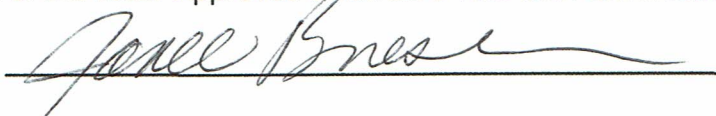
- The goals and strategies of the Age Friendly Austin Action Plan should be incorporated into planning for affordable housing.
- In addition to tracking demographics required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), programs should track age of recipients and units set aside for seniors in order to determine if needs of seniors are being addressed.

- Assistance for affordable home repair, maintenance and modification for seniors of all income levels should be expanded and publicized. Homeowner assistance will assist those seniors who wish to age in place to remain in their homes, and ensure those homes are safe and comfortable. Consider a sliding payment scale for homeowners who cannot afford market rate repairs but do not qualify as low or very low income clients.
- Publicize information about and direct seniors to comprehensive information resources including, but not limited to 211 and 311 and provide guidance for seniors who are seeking affordable housing and/or assistance to stay in their homes, such as connecting seniors to the Aging and Disability Resource Center.
- Educate developers about the needs of seniors and give incentives to developers to develop affordable housing for seniors.

Date of Approval: April 12, 2017

Record of the vote: Approved on an 11-0 vote with Commissioner Grampp absent

Attest:

  
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