

FY 2018 Commission on Seniors Budget Recommendations June 14, 2017

	Department(s) Affected	Budget Request	Justification	Budget Impact	Vote
1	Planning (Imagine Austin) or other appropriate department	NEW The Commission on Seniors recommends the city provide adequate personnel resources under the Imagine Austin structure, or other appropriate department, for an Age Friendly Austin Project Coordinator. The position would focus on the successful implementation of the Age Friendly Austin plan, goals and strategies.	Austin must better prepare for the growing population of seniors. The city took a crucial first step in declaring itself an Age Friendly City, adopting the Age Friendly Action Plan, and amending Imagine Austin to include consideration of the needs of Austin's aging population. The Commission determined that a Project Coordinator focusing on senior issues is necessary for city's success in meeting the needs of seniors and is our priority budget recommendation. A model for this position is the Youth & Family Services/ Youth Initiatives Citywide Manager <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/about-youth-and-family-services>, who's responsibilities include: • Maximize City and community investments in youth and family services so that the right programs are available and targeted for the right audience; • Engage all aspects of the community to support the needs Austin's youth and families; • Analyze community needs and resources and nonprofit services to address gaps in service	Add or reassign 1 FTE for Planning Dept. Age Friendly Austin Project Coordinator (suggested Planner II - \$48,000) within Imagine Austin Project in the Zoning and Planning Department. This position would focus on the successful implementation of the Age Friendly Austin (AFA) plan, goals and strategies.	Motioned By: Commissioner Garcia-Pittman Seconded By: Commissioner Van Sickle Vote: 11-1 with Vice Chair Varteressian opposed and Commissioner Angel absent)

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2	Planning (Imagine Austin) or other appropriate department	NEW Resources to 1) Develop a mechanism to survey the senior population on issues that are most important to them and 2) track and analyze population data based on age including a detailed breakdown of older adults (cross-walked by zip code, race, ethnicity, income, health status, disability, etc.)	City departments would use this age-related data analysis to inform program and service delivery decisions. Data would also inform public awareness activities to link older adults to city programs. The city has compiled similar data for the African-American, Hispanic-Latino and Asian American Quality of Life Initiatives. Seniors and pre-seniors are the fastest growing demographic in Austin, but the city has not done the same in-depth study of this population as it has with the other Quality of Life Initiatives.	\$50,000 (estimated) for an outside vendor to survey seniors in Austin and to gather detailed demographic data on seniors and pre-seniors to assist in the development of programs, services and metrics to support the Age Friendly Action plan.	Motioned By: Commissioner Van Sickle Seconded By: Commissioner Nicola Vote: 11-1 with Vice Chair Varteressian opposed and Commissioner Angel absent										
3	Austin Public Health	ONGOING Support and expand current social service investment for programs specific to seniors, including community-based services that focus on physical, emotional, mental and social well-being of seniors including social service contracts and neighborhood centers.	These programs support the goals of the Age Friendly Action Plan. The Commission determined that along with the growing senior population there is a growing need for these services, and local governments may be the only safety net for providing these services.	Increase funding by at least 3% over FY 17 funding levels for community based services, neighborhood center programs and social service contracts serving seniors (both those services and programs exclusively serving seniors and those whose clients include seniors).	Motioned By: Commissioner Kareithi Seconded By: Vice Chair Varteressian Vote: 11-0 with Commissioner Hauser recusing and Commissioner Angel absent										
4	Parks and Recreation	NEW Replace three vehicles used by PARD for senior transportation.	PARD has informed use through the Transportation Working Group that it is fully staffed with drivers, but has three vehicles nearing their useful life. The PARD senior transit program is the only transit program provided directly by the city. PARD transportations enable seniors to attend congregate meals, and also allows seniors to schedule rides, such as to medical appointments.	PARD has supplied the following cost information: <table><tr><td>Item</td><td>Price</td></tr><tr><td>Ford E350 Van</td><td>\$40,000</td></tr><tr><td>Wheelchair Lift Kit</td><td>\$10,000</td></tr><tr><td>Ford E350 Van with Wheelchair Lift Kit</td><td>\$50,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total for 3 Ford E350 Vans w/ Lifts</td><td>\$150,000</td></tr></table>	Item	Price	Ford E350 Van	\$40,000	Wheelchair Lift Kit	\$10,000	Ford E350 Van with Wheelchair Lift Kit	\$50,000	Total for 3 Ford E350 Vans w/ Lifts	\$150,000	Motioned By: Commissioner Kareithi Seconded By: Commissioner Grampp Vote: 10-0 with Commissioner Hauser recusing, Commissioner Nicola off the dais, and Commissioner Angel absent
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5	Neighborhood Housing	ONGOING Additional funding for home repair services.	Home repair and architectural barrier removal are essential for enabling lower income seniors to remain in their homes, which is usually more cost effective than the alternatives. The Commission on Seniors has consistently supported expanding and publicizing home repair services. Agencies providing these services have reported to us that they consistently have waiting lists and run out of funds before they can serve all those who request service. Home repair is a strategy in the Age Friendly Action Plan. Additional support: The recently adopted Strategic Housing Blueprint calls for assisting at least 600 low income households with home repair services. The Mayor’s Task Force on Institutional Racism and System Inequities Recommendation 2.4.4 supports the home repair program, including expanding it to those without clear title to the property (while assisting those residents to get a clear title)	Increase funding for home repair and architectural barrier removal over FY 17 levels by at least 5%.	Motioned By: Vice Chair Varteressian Seconded By: Commissioner Kareithi Vote: 10-0 with Commissioner Hauser recusing, Commissioner Nicola off the dais, and Commissioner Angel absent
6	Community and Public Information Office	NEW Funding for language access (translation and interpretation services) for city boards and commissions for both posted meetings and meetings and community meetings.	Currently city departments are in the process of developing “language access” plans directed at the departments’ interaction with the public. The Language Access Audit (June, 2016) did not review the public’s interaction with boards and commissions. The Commission on Seniors was requested to speak to a community group about the Age Friendly Action plan. This group requested the documents be translated and an interpreter be provided for the meeting. COS was unable to secure the requested services under the city’s current procedures. Additional support: The Report of the Task Force on Community Engagement (May 6, 2016) identified 5 themes as a basis for its	Dedicate a portion of existing language access funding or increase current language access funding to provide language access services to boards and commissions.	Motioned By: Commissioner Van Sickle Seconded By: Commissioner Cagle Vote: 11-0 with Commissioner Nicola off the dais and Commissioner Angel absent

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			recommendations, including 1. Make information clear, relevant and easily accessible (including to those with special needs, such as disability or low language fluency), and 2. Make it easier for people to give input in ways that are convenient, accessible and appropriate (including the need to use culturally relevant methods, inducing multiple language access). Report at p. 15.		