



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION < >**

Date: August 15, 2017

Subject: Resolution to oppose Senate Bill 4 in Support of resolution 20170518-045

Motioned By: < > Seconded By: < >
Recommendation

Description of Recommendation to Council

Whereas, it is the value of the City of Austin to be a welcoming and inclusive city for all of its citizens including those of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and national origin backgrounds;

Whereas, the City of Austin has declared Austin a Welcoming City through Resolution 20140320-049 celebrating the contributions of members of the immigrant community;

Whereas, the City of Austin Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community makes up seven percent of the population and is predicted to double every 10 years, while the general population of Austin will likely double after only 20 to 25 years, stated on the City of Austin government website;

Whereas, the Center for Migration Studies' found that 1 out of every 7 Asians are undocumented and account for approximately 1.46 million to 1.65 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, and 131,444 undocumented immigrants in Texas;

Whereas, the documented and undocumented AAPI Community has established evidence in contributing to the national economy, and in the City of Austin, there are 13,000 Asian-American businesses in Travis and surrounding counties reported by the Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce;

Whereas, on May 7, 2017, Senate Bill 4 was filed in the Texas Legislature as a highly partisan directive, conceivably in violation of constitutional safeguards and now signed into law, calls on local law enforcement to inquire about immigration status in traffic stops and other interactions mandating fines and jail time for elected officials and law enforcement who fail to comply;

Whereas, Senate Bill 4, under the guise of public safety, would target more than 1.3 million documented and undocumented Asian American and Pacific Islanders living in

Texas for racial profiling;

Whereas, requiring law enforcement to engage in immigration enforcement erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities, and would give rise to similar discrimination felt during the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the internment of Japanese Americans, and the steady profiling of South Asian Communities based on race and religion;

Whereas, on May 7, 2017, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a lawsuit against Travis County; the Austin Mayor, City Council et al., proclaiming that Senate Bill 4 is constitutional (Texas v. Travis County, et al. 1:17-CV-00425 (W.D.Tex – Austin));

Whereas, the Austin City Council's resolution 20170518-045 dated May 18, 2017, directs its City Manager to pursue litigation and advance a relationship of trust and communication with the City of Austin Officials and its residents by opposing the passage of Senate Bill 4;

Whereas, resolution 20170518-045 found that cities with welcoming policies towards immigrants had fewer crimes committed overall, higher household incomes, and lower rates of unemployment;

Whereas, the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission's purpose is to advise City Council on the City's Asian American quality of life; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE
ADVISORY COMMISSION:**

Supports Austin City Council resolution 20170518-045, in order to provide relief to the City of Austin Asian American and Pacific Islander community, all City of Austin residents, and the people of the state of Texas, from Senate Bill 4;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission strongly encourages and endorses efforts by the City of Austin to pursue litigation and all other necessary efforts to prevent the restrictions and mandates of Senate Bill 4;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission upholds the core values of the City of Austin as a Welcoming City by continuing to raise our voices in opposition to Senate Bill 4 as it fosters bigotry and intolerance against our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Rationale:

Vote

:

Attest:

DRAFT