



RECOMMENDATION

Commission on Seniors

Recommendation Number: 20171011-4E: Submitting comments to the Bond Election Advisory Task Force Regarding the Age Friendly Action Plan and needs of Seniors in Austin.

WHEREAS, the Commission on Seniors serves as an advisory board to the council concerning the quality of life for senior citizens in the Austin area and to help ensure older adults are productive, independent, and healthy; and

WHEREAS, according to information provided by the City Demographer, the fastest growing age group in the Austin area are people aged 55 and older, increasing from 8 percent of the area population in 2010 to nearly 20 percent of the population in 2040. Seniors are often among the poorest in Austin, with the median household income for seniors aged 65 and older \$44,251 compared to \$55,744 for all households; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Age Friendly Action plan adopted by City Council and incorporated into Imagine Austin in November of 2016 (attached) to address the needs of Austin's growing senior population in the areas of Buildings and Outdoor Spaces, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information, and Community Support and Health Services; and

WHEREAS, the Bond Election Advisory Task Force will recommend a bond package to the City Council related to capital investments directly related to the Age Friendly Action Plan including libraries, housing, mobility, transit, parks and other public buildings; and

WHEREAS, the General Obligation Bonds Home Repair Program has been successful in allowing seniors to remain in their homes, addressing affordability and preventing displacement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors

- Recommends the Bond Advisory Task Force to target outreach to seniors and organizations serving seniors in its Citizen Input process;

- Recommends the Task Force include serving the needs of seniors in its evaluation of items to include in the bond package; and
- Recommends allocating at least \$18 million for the Home Repair Program.

Date of Approval: October 11, 2017

Record of the vote: 13-0. Commissioner Hauser abstained. Commissioner Angel was absent.

Attest:


