



Austin Public Health



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 1088


Austin, Texas 78767

Phone (512) 972-5010

Fax (512) 972-5016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Stephanie Hayden, Interim Director, Austin Public Health 

DATE: December 4, 2017

SUBJECT: Response to Resolution No. 20141211-115 College Student Commission

By Council Resolution No. 20141211-115, City Council requested the City Manager to work with local higher education institutions and representative student bodies to develop a student quality of life initiative to analyze relevant data and feedback, then return back to Council with recommendations for new or enhanced City programs, policies, or practices that would improve the quality of life of higher education students in Austin, Texas.

Beginning in September 2015, Youth & Family Services/Youth Initiatives Office began holding monthly meetings with representatives from the following universities and colleges; St. Edwards University, Concordia University, Hutson-Tillotson University, University of Texas at Austin, and Austin Community College. Subject matter experts from the following City Departments: Code Enforcement, Police Department, Fire Department, EMS, Transportation, Sustainability Office, Neighborhood Housing & Community Development attended meetings to provide knowledge in their areas of expertise. The focus of discussion was on the five areas of interest from the Resolution: Affordability, Sustainability, Transportation, Public Safety, Racial and Ethnic Inclusion.

By Council Resolution No. 20170511-009, City Council directed the City Manager to consider approaches to composition of the Student Commission, including requesting that administrators at area colleges and universities, (the University of Texas, Huston-Tillotson University, St. Edwards University, Concordia University, and Austin Community College), each identify two student representatives for inclusion on the Student Commission. Administrators and student government organizations on each campus should be encouraged to identify students who may not already have formal methods of communicating with the City Council through organizational or other relationships. The student commission shall meet at least twice per year and shall forward recommendations to the City Council as appropriate. The City Manager is directed to review the Student Commission and to determine if any structural or procedural components of the Commission need to be refined.

The college students from the 2015 student committee met on September 8, 2017. Students and City staff would like to continue with a Commission as well as have 4 meetings a year as shared

in their recommendations to Council. The college students would like for the selection to remain as it was initially set up. The original selection process was a combination of City and University staff, (Dean of Students or Vice President of Students with criteria provided by the City). The representatives from each school should have one member from the student government organization and the rest of the students would come from the university at large. Student should be appointed/selected by the school, and should be a diverse representation of the student population. There should be 4-5 students selected from each school to allow for periodic absences due to school assignments.

The Law Department is currently working on developing an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 2-1 to establish the College Student Commission. A Request for Council Action is forthcoming on the December 14, 2017 Council Meeting Agenda.

cc: Elaine Hart, Interim City Manager
Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager