



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Human Rights Commission
Recommendation Number: 20180326-001a
Regarding the People's Plan and Housing Crisis.

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission of the City of Austin advocates on behalf of human rights for all people in the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS the City of Austin seeks to promote a livable city principle, racial equity, and to protect all of its residents from unfair displacement; and

WHEREAS the City of Austin has a history of discriminatory policies dating back to the 1928 City Council resolution establishing the "Negro District," which has lead to a disparate impact on people of color and perpetuated racial inequity in Austin; and

WHEREAS, the market in Austin is not preserving or producing affordable housing for low income families making 60% of median family income or less, which is quickly displacing people of color with low income; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin still has no consistent policy, funding, or program to address the housing crisis for low income families; and

WHEREAS on January 22, 2018 the Commission received a presentation on the People's Plan presented by Dr. Fred McGhee and Susana Almanza, which included 6 separate recommendations addressing the housing crisis in Austin; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2018, the Commission discussed the recommendations, recognized and supported the spirit of the People's Plan, and formed a working group to draft their own recommendation to highlight priorities that best address the housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, housing is a fundamental human right and need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council and City Manager's Office confer with staff to develop a comprehensive plan and implement the appropriate measures to address the housing crisis for low-income families, while prioritizing the following:

1. Establish a dedicated Low Income Housing Trust Fund (LIHTF) to preserve, construct or subsidize housing for income families making 30% median family income.

2. Identify properties owned by the City of Austin that can be quickly made available for building low income housing.

3. Adopt and fund an effective, robust Right to Return and Right to Stay Program for East Austin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, after equitable proactive measures have been put in place, the Council and City Manager will have regular audits of the implementation process and make sure that the needs of the community are being met.

Date of Approval: _____

Record of the vote:

Attest: _____

(Staff or board member can sign)