



RECOMMENDATION

Commission on Seniors

Recommendation Number: 20180509-E.E: Recommendation to Increase the Bond Election Advisory Task Force Recommendation on Affordable Housing Bonds by \$18 Million and Double the Allocation for Home Repair

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 Commission on Seniors has previously adopted Recommendation Number 20171011 supporting a minimum of \$18 million in the bond package for Home Repair, and requested the Task Force include the needs of Seniors in their considerations; and

WHEREAS, while City staff initially recommended \$85 million for all affordable housing bonds, the Bond Election Advisory Task Force recommended a bond package to the City Council that includes \$161 million for affordable housing, an increase of \$76 million; and

WHEREAS, despite the additional funding the Task Force did not increase its allocation to the Home Repair Program (the amount in both the staff and Task Force proposals for the Home Repair program is \$18 million, which is expected to serve 200 homes per year); and

WHEREAS, the Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint (p 17) sets a goal of 600 homes per year for Home Repair to help preserve existing housing and providers currently have waiting lists; and

WHEREAS, the General Obligation Bonds Home Repair Program has been successful in allowing seniors to remain in their homes and age in place and also addresses affordability and is a tool to prevent displacement from gentrifying neighborhoods.

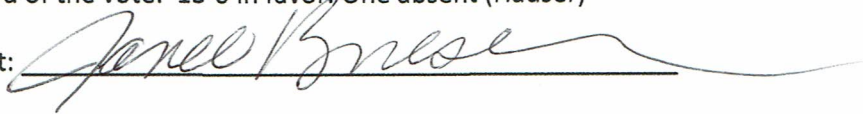
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors recommends adding at least another \$18 million to the affordable housing bond package to double the amount available for home repair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Seniors recommends that voter education about the affordable housing bonds should include information about the housing needs of seniors, and include information specifically about the Home Repair program and the seniors and disabled persons served by this program.

Date of Approval: May 9, 2018

Record of the vote: 13-0 in favor, One absent (Hauser)

Attest:



A handwritten signature in cursive, appearing to read "James G. Griesse", is written over a horizontal line. The signature extends to the right of the line.