



## **COMMISSION ON SENIORS RECOMMENDATION 20180613-5E**

### **Recommending Funding in the Bond Election for Dove Springs and RBJ Health Facilities**

Date: June 13, 2018

Subject: Recommending Funding in the 2018 Bond Election for RBJ and Dove Springs Health Facilities

Motioned By: Angel

Seconded By: Nicola

#### **Recommendation**

The Commission on Seniors supports investments in facilities to provide health care and social services to seniors in multi-generational settings. The Commission supports adding to the Bond Election Advisory Task Force recommendation \$3.8 million for capital costs related to a multi-generational health center at the city-owned building adjacent to the Rebekah Baines Johnson Senior Living Center. Further, the Commission supports the Bond Election Advisory Task Force recommendation to include \$16 million for the Dove Springs Health Center and the Commission recommends the Dove Springs facility include multi-generational programs and services.

#### **Rationale:**

On October 11, 2017 the Commission on Seniors recommended that the Austin City Council direct staff to consider the city-owned RBJ Health Center for a potential public-private partnership to establish a *Senior Clinic and Community Center* that provides a range of social services and health care, including multigenerational services to residents at the Rebekah Baines Johnson (RBJ) Senior Living Center and surrounding neighborhoods comprised of 11 zip codes within a 20-minute drive <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=286425>. These areas represent diverse communities with rapidly aging low-income populations.

Locating an Age-Inclusive Center in this neighborhood and adjacent to the RBJ Senior Living Center can serve as a prototype for filling the gap in senior health and social services with an all-in-one Center that is accessible to those who need it most. Additionally, the model incorporates multigenerational services, such as adult and child daycare, in recognition that strategies that serve the entire community result in better outcomes for all. This is a model that could be extended to other areas of the city, including the Dove Springs facility.

After a year-long study conducted by the LBJ School of Public Affairs, the project "Young, Hip Austin is Getting Old: A New Experiment in Confronting the Challenge" demonstrated that there is a substantial need for an integrated senior clinic and community age-inclusive center. The report also determined that a public-private partnership to co-locate affordable senior housing with a medical clinic and community care center, is a viable solution to addressing that need <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/handle/2152/65188>.

The Policy Research Project (PRP) Team developed a proposal for the Bond Election Advisory Task Force on Reinvestment in Facilities and Assets, Austin City Council and City Staff. The proforma estimates the capital cost of the renovation and build out of one floor of the RBJ Heath Center at around \$3.8 million. Letters of support and commitment for operational expenses have been submitted to the city's Deputy Chief Financial Officer and can be found in Appendix G of the PRP Report No. 197 (see above). For all these reasons, we hereby recommend that City Council consider adoption of the Public-Private partnership for the RBJ initiative and the \$3.8 million Bond Proposal.

The Bond Election Advisory Task Force's Working Group on Reinvestment in Facilities and Assets recommended \$16 million dollars for a new Dove Springs Health Center. Austin Public Health proposed establishing a public health facility to address needs in this underserved area of the city. APH estimates the center would serve 12,000 people, including seniors. The Commission is fully in support of this recommendation and encourages Austin Public Health to include services to seniors at Dove Springs, similar to the model described above for RBJ.

Seniors and pre-seniors are the fastest growing age cohorts in Austin. Both of these facilities and multi-generational programming fulfill goals of the Age Friendly Action Plan adopted by Council.

#### **Vote**

For: Briesemeister, Angel, Bordie, Cagle, Garcia-Pittman, Hauser, Jackson, Kareithi, Lugo, Nicola

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Varteressian, Grampp, Van Sickle, Sheth

Attest:

