



**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION  
AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
Recommendation number: 20180904-05**

**WHEREAS**, the African American Resource Advisory Commission was founded in 2006 to advise the Austin City Council of the adverse impact of systemic policies and alleviate disparities and disparate impact in the criminal justice system on African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Minorities for Equality in Economy, Education, Liberty and Justice (ME3LJ) was founded in 2004 to provide opportunities for at risk youth and formerly incarcerated persons, while helping them to redirect, restore, and reconnect as responsible and employable members of society, and

**WHEREAS**, inequities continue to have a disparate impact on African Americans in economics, housing, healthcare, homelessness, social, culture and employment.

**WHEREAS**, ME3LJ has filled a void in the City of Austin by providing support and resources to populations that are over represented and underserved in the Austin area.

**WHEREAS**, ME3LJ continues to serve this population by providing support and resources, despite increasing demands on staff to ensure help is available to everyone that needs it and qualifies for its programs.

**WHEREAS**, studies show that providing support to formerly incarcerated persons has a positive impact on communities and decreases the rate of recidivism.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, THAT THE COMMISSION HEREBY RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:**

**That the Austin City of Council provide funding in the amount requested to ensure that ME3LJ can continue to ensure that formerly incarcerated persons in Austin will continue to have access to support and resources that help them restore, reconnect and become employable and responsible members of society.**

**Be it further resolved that the Austin City Council provide funding to ME3LJ as recommended by the African American Resource Advisory Commission in the stated amount of \$391,380.**

**Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Austin City Manager and each member of the Austin City Council, per the request of the**

**African American Resource Advisory Commission**

I affirm that this Recommendation t was approved by the African American Resource Commission

**Vote:** 7 – 2 against - 2 abstain

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Ruthie Redmond and Greg Smith

**Vacant:** 1

  
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Kenneth D. Thompson  
AARAC Commission Chair

9-7-2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date