



COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: (20190820-06a): Identifying Up to \$50,000 to Support Canvassing and Media Efforts that Encourage and Facilitate 2020 Census Participation by Asian Americans, Immigrants and other Minority Communities.

WHEREAS, it is the value of the City of Austin to be an inclusive city for all of its citizens including those of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and national origin backgrounds;

WHEREAS, the City of Austin declared the need for a high response rate for the 2020 Census;

WHEREAS, The Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in Austin is the fastest growing demographic group, doubling roughly every 10 years, and comprising approximately seven percent of the City of Austin's population;

WHEREAS, 72 percent of the Asian population during the 2010 Census responded to the questionnaire;

WHEREAS, the Asian population grew by 6.1 percent in between the year of 2017 to 2018 in the five-county region of the City of Austin;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the 2020 Census to provide accurate data that represents ALL ethnicities in the City of Austin;

WHEREAS, the projected self-response rate of Census 2020 is to fall between 55 to 60.5 percent;

WHEREAS, 635,000 people were hired to follow up with the non-respondents, when the overall response rate of Census 2010 was 72 percent;

WHEREAS, the cost of counting one household in 2010 was \$92, so a non-response would cost the \$92 in addition to the cost of an enumerator following up;

WHEREAS, 436 incidents of assault or threats against enumerators during the follow-up process of the 2010 Census;

WHEREAS, more funding will be needed to follow up with a projected lower response rate;

WHEREAS, according to the Center of Public Policy Priorities says that a 1 percent undercount 2020 could cost Texas hundreds of millions of dollars;

WHEREAS, for every resident who is undercounted, Texas would miss out on \$1,500 each year for the next 10 years;

WHEREAS, the 2020 Census recognize the major barriers affecting Asian American and Pacific Islanders (1) the previously proposed addition of a citizenship question; (2) fear of cyber breach; (3) and undercounted minorities;

WHEREAS, providing culturally competent research and awareness to the AAPI community will address the issues of a lower response rate (compared to 2010 Census) that is ignored by Legislative bodies on the United States;

WHEREAS, census data supports funding in each state for Medicaid and Medicare, Special Education Grants, State Children's Health Insurance Programs, Child Care, and Low Income Housing;

WHEREAS, the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission's purpose is to advise the City of Austin on Asian American quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION:

Supports an increase in the City budget for up to \$50,000 for canvassing, media, and the need to recognize ethnic subgroups among the AAPI population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Asian American Quality of Life Commission strongly encourages and endorses the efforts by the City of Austin to pursue the efforts of the 2020 Census that produces data representative of the AAPI Community and other minority communities.

Date of Approval: August 20, 2019

Record of the vote: Moved by Commissioner Sethi, Seconded by Commissioner Yoshida. Unanimous on a 10-0 vote (Commissioners Cobalis, Sethi, Yoshida, DasGupta, Stanton, Saxena, Conte, Patel, Kavita, and Radhakrishnan) Absent: Commissioners Patil, Krause, Chao, and Wang

Attest: _____

