



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Human Rights Commission

Recommendation Number: 20191028-003e Protect and Serve the Homeless Community

WHEREAS, Austin City Council recently rolled back their progress to decriminalize the sitting, lying and camping ordinances for the homeless community; and

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott has threatened to intervene and have troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety to forcibly move homeless people from Texas Department of Transportation highways and intersecting streets; and

WHEREAS, there has been a lot of dehumanizing rhetoric and direct attacks towards the homeless community; and

WHEREAS, the homeless community will be vulnerable to further discrimination, criminalization, and a cycle of poverty.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Human Rights Commission encourages the Austin City Council to:

1. Protect the homeless community from forceful displacement, seizure of their personal possessions, and/or direct attacks;
2. Provide resources for proper relocation;
3. Provide resources for basic needs;
4. Provide resources to prevent homelessness and the cycle of poverty; and
5. Adding people experiencing homelessness as a protected class to existing non-discrimination ordinances.

Date of Approval: October 28, 2019

Record of the vote: 8-0-1. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Jamarr Brown, Commissioner Casas second. Voting in favor were Vice Chair Caballero, Commissioner Garry Brown, Commissioner Jamarr Brown, Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Griffith, Commissioner Santana, Commissioner Weigel, and Commissioner White. Chair Davis and Commissioner Breckenridge were absent. Commissioner Museitif abstained.

Attest: Jonathan Babiak

Jonathan Babiak

Staff Liaison, Human Rights Commission