



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Human Rights Commission

Recommendation Number: 20200127-003b Land Development Code and Equity

WHEREAS, concerns about affordability and displacement impact communities of color and low-income communities the most, considering the historically inequitable investments by public and private sectors, as well as a history of systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Pro Tern Delia Garza has proposed an equity overlay that, if adopted, would limit developers' ability to tear down existing multifamily housing to build bigger, more expensive units - which could help mitigate displacement; and

WHEREAS, bonuses and high-capacity zoning categories have been proposed in undeveloped parcels in or immediately adjacent to low-income communities of color, but the new capacity for those units— including the income-restricted units—would be far more expensive than what the median family income in those areas could afford, therefore having a gentrifying effect; and

WHEREAS, no preservation, protection or conservation program initiative has been proposed by City staff for areas where gentrification of Latinxs, African-Americans and low-income residents in general has been widely documented or noted as a threat in the Uprooted Study; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Equity Office has adopted a framework for addressing equity within policy planning that includes knowing the history; reviewing and monitoring the data; engaging the community; advancing racial equity; and analyzing unintended consequences; and

WHEREAS, equity is a core anchor of the City of Austin Strategic Direction 2023, which codifies the state of emergency for Austin's communities of color across the "Economic Opportunity and Affordability" outcome area, and in particular in City Council's selected "Top 10 Indicators," which prioritize racially equitable impact within Homelessness and Housing;

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

- 1) Direct and provide a budget in consultation with the Equity Office defining the timeline and resources needed for a comprehensive Equity and Disparate Impact Analysis of the Land Development Code Revision and its process; and
- 2) Direct and provide budget for an intentional, accessible engagement process with communities and neighborhoods identified as at risk for gentrification and displacement. The engagement should:
 - be performed by culturally responsive contractors identified by the Equity Office; and

- ensure individuals understand what the new code will mean for them and their neighbors; and
- provide the neighborhoods opportunity to identify strategies they feel are best able to ensure the new code will serve them and ensure they are able to remain housed and maintain and/or create access to municipal services and infrastructure.

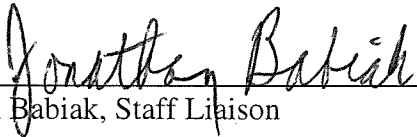
The analysis should be directed by the Equity Office, and receive full participation from associated departments, as required.

Date of Approval: Date of Approval: January 27, 2020

Record of the vote: 11-0; Chair Davis motion, Commissioner Griffith second. Voting in favor were Chair Davis, Vice Chair Caballero, Commissioner Breckenridge, Commissioner Garry Brown, Commissioner Jamarr Brown, Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Griffith, Commissioner Museitif, Commissioner Santana, Commissioner Weigel, and Commissioner White.

Attest: _____

Jonathan Babiak, Staff Liaison

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Babiak". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a signature line.