



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Human Rights Commission

Recommendation Number: 20200127-003f Cease Arrest and Prosecution Against Sex Workers

WHEREAS, The individual act of engaging in sex work is a non-violent offense; and

WHEREAS, The number of available public safety dollars are most judiciously spent preventing and combating violent crime; and

WHEREAS, The criminalization of sex workers rarely leads to any improvements in extinguishing human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, The punitive measures inflicted upon sex workers does not alleviate the underlying conditions which lead to their involvement; and

WHEREAS, A criminal record makes a person much less able to find economic opportunities in various other industries; and

WHEREAS, The human rights abuses of our current judicial system do not serve as appropriate reprisal for such activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Human Rights Commission for The City of Austin encourages the Austin City Council to allocate funds and explore all available means in order to end the arrest, criminalization, stigmatization, criminal pursuit, detention, trial, or any other legal strategy against persons whom individually engage in sex work.

Date of Approval: January 27, 2020

Record of the vote: 7-1; Commissioner White motion, Commissioner Weigel second. Voting in favor were Vice Chair Caballero, Commissioner Garry Brown, Commissioner Jamarr Brown, Commissioner Casas, Commissioner Santana, Commissioner Weigel, and Commissioner White. Voting against was Chair Davis. Commissioner Breckenridge, Commissioner Griffith, and Commissioner Museitif were absent.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Jonathan Babiak, Staff Liaison