



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission

Recommendation Number: 20200410-003a - COVID-19 Equity in Food and Testing

WHEREAS, early COVID-19 data around the nation indicates that the coronavirus is disproportionately impacting Latino/Hispanic and African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Latino/Hispanic and African American populations are often on the front lines of exposure to the pandemic and less likely to have health insurance and access to transportation, which complicates the ability to seek treatment for illnesses; and

WHEREAS, mass loss of employment and financial strain has worsened food and resource insecurity and increased the urgent need for food resources.

WHEREAS, the Austin community values equity and ensuring that all our vulnerable communities are protected and sufficiently served

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission urges the Austin City Council to ensure equitable testing of COVID-19 Austin prioritizing the Eastern Crescent by restricting and tailoring funds to specifically service these areas. Equitable testing includes geographic equity in location of testing sites, the use of community health workers to conduct mobile testing and contact tracing, distribution of personal protective equipment to community health workers and other frontline staff, and equitable services in care and recovery from COVID-19. All testing and treatment should incorporate racial and ethnic data collection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission urges the Austin City Council to ensure equitable access to mobile social service and food distribution sites prioritizing the Eastern Crescent by restricting and tailoring funds to specifically service these areas. In the interest of equity as well as public health, food distribution should be decentralized through the use of neighborhood centers and other methods of mobile distribution opposed to just the Central Texas Food Bank and current existing methods. In order to achieve this, the City of Austin should look to receive recommendations on processes and locations from the Social Services Branch of the Emergency Operations Center and local community groups.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that these funds should not come out of the \$15M RISE fund.

Date of Approval: April 10, 2020

Record of the vote: (I.e. Unanimous on a 7-0 vote, 1 abstained – Commissioner Sharon Vigil).

Attest: *Ananda Jasso*

(Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Staff Liaison)