



## COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

### AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Recommendation Number: 20200504-04bi: Joint Recommendation for COVID-19 Equity in Food and Testing with Hispanic/Latino QOL Commission Recommendation (20200410-1)

**WHEREAS**, the African American Resource Advisory Commission (the "Commission") is authorized by Austin City Code § 2-1-101 to advise the City Council on issues related to the quality of life for the City's African American community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission is specifically authorized to recommend programs designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront African Americans in social, economic, and vocational pursuits, including (1) health care; (2) housing, including affordable housing, home ownership, and homelessness; (3) entertainment opportunities for professionals and students; (4) employment; and (5) cultural venues, including museums, theaters, art galleries, and music venues; and

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

**WHEREAS**, African American and Latino/Hispanic 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 African American Resource Advisory 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, including the addition of Givens Park as a testing site for 78723/21 zip codes, 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 African American Resource Advisory 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: May 4, 2020

Record of the vote: 7-0 vote (Commissioner Daryl Horton, Miriam Conner, Nelson Linder, Greg Smith, Elaina Fowler, Clifford Gillard, and Cherelle VanBrakle)  
Commissioner Rashida Wright did not vote.

Recused: Commissioner Dr. Chiquita Eugene

Absent: Volma Overton, III, Elton Randal, Ellen Sweets, Aaliyah Nobles, and Tam Hawkins

I affirm this recommendation was approved by the African American Resource Advisory Commission.

  
Daryl Horton, AARAC Chair

May 4, 2020  
Date