



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1111, **Agenda Item #:** 33.

2/4/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Management Services Department's Equity Office Operating Budget Special Revenue fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to accept and appropriate \$75,000 from Living Cities to build on the equity work already underway in Austin, including competency building for staff to equip the City to apply a racial equity analysis to all the City's work.

Lead Department

Equity Office.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$75,000 is available from Living Cities. A City funding match is not required.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Living Cities harnesses the collective power of philanthropy, financial institutions and local governments to close racial income and wealth gaps in American cities. The City was chosen as a member city of the Closing the Gaps Network that Living Cities is hosting. Within Closing the Gaps Network, six cities are part of a Year of Reckoning cohort. Through this deep, year-long experience, Living Cities and the selected cities will build on the work already underway in the cities, including competency building for staff to equip the City to apply a racial equity analysis to all the City's work. \$75,000 in funding is available from Living Cities for the City to go towards these purposes.

In Austin, and across the nation, communities of color are disproportionately impacted across systems and this year especially has further exacerbated inequities present in the City. We are also seeing the ways in which our immigrant communities, in particular, are facing a multitude of challenges during this pandemic, such as being able to access information and services in their primary language, receiving financial assistance due to unemployment, unsafe working conditions for frontline workers due to employer negligence, and more.

Being a part of this research project can inform our future emergency response and disaster preparedness efforts so that we are better positioned to address the needs of our most vulnerable communities. This is a yearlong grant.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Management Services Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government That Works for All