

DRAFT

A Resolution to Join the Austin-Travis County Hate Crimes Task Force

WHEREAS, the State of Texas proactively recognizes disability in a list of hate crime victim demographics;

WHEREAS, ableism is discrimination occurring in society specifically because of disability and the City of Austin with large populations of people with disabilities, has an ethical obligation to finally publically acknowledge and properly address ableism as also being an unfortunate part of the City of Austin's unique history;

WHEREAS, ableism is central to the lived experience of people with disabilities and incidents should not be downplayed or minimized;

WHEREAS, MCPD has already begun to address and work toward constructively addressing and effectively resolving past and existing patterns of ableism within the Austin Police Department and City of Austin;

WHEREAS, both the Human Rights Commission and the Immigrant Affairs Commission, whom the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (MCPD) already actively collaborates with through mutual projects on the Joint Inclusion Committee, are already full voting members of the Austin-Travis County Hate Crimes Task Force;

WHEREAS, MCPD wants to continue working together with the Austin Police Department, the Office of Police Monitor, the Equity Office, and the City of Austin to proactively recognize and constructively resolve reported bias incidents which occur specifically because of disability;

WHEREAS, proactively recognizing and constructively resolving violence against people with disabilities and ableism in our City helps make Austin a safer more equitable and inclusive community for people of all abilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities recommends that the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities join the Austin Travis County Hate Crimes Task Force as a full voting member.