

DRAFT

A Resolution To Get The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities on the Austin Economic Development Corporation

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic specifically because of our pre-existing conditions;

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, has a very large and engaged local disability community, several of whom are also small business entrepreneurs;

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (MCPD) is a voting member of the Joint Inclusion Committee which helps advise both the Equity Office, and Chief Equity Officer;

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's Chief Equity Officer is already a sitting member of the Austin Economic Development Corporation;

WHEREAS, full access to appropriate k-12 special education, Americans with Disabilities Act provisions, and 504 services for all Austin residents was disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and quality of received education services provides a critical foundation for achieving future life successes including employment and career opportunities;

WHEREAS, people with disabilities must receive full access to appropriate education, post-secondary education, and workforce training programs, even during a pandemic;

WHEREAS, one of the long-term goals of the MCPD even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic is increased and improved meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy specifically shows a higher unemployment rate for people with disabilities than the general population;

WHEREAS, achieving equity also involves eliminating all traces of ableism from City programs which systematically ignore the explicit representation and specific experiences of people with disabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities requests that the City of Austin amend the bylaws of the Austin Economic Development Corporation so a representative from the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities is permanently seated on this city corporation and is helping to advise the City of Austin about economic, educational and community development opportunities especially for people with disabilities.