

RESOLUTION NO. 20210930-108

WHEREAS, public health is one of the basic elements of our society; and

WHEREAS, the public health system addresses multiple factors that affect health, and there is a dynamic relationship between people and their environment; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic illustrates the importance of having policy, plans, programs, and operations ready to address public health crisis at a national, state and local level; and

WHEREAS, every citizen deserves the opportunity to enjoy a healthy life, free of disease and disability, but health disparities persist as a result of unequal socioeconomic factors; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asserts that reducing health disparities is a major goal of public health; and

WHEREAS, the CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities 2013 Report found that eliminating health disparities for minorities from 2003–2006 would have reduced direct medical expenditures by approximately \$229 billion and reduced indirect costs associated with illness and premature death by approximately \$1 trillion; and

WHEREAS, eliminating health disparities is essential to strengthening the nation's health and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, while there are multiple groups working to improve public health in the City of Austin and Travis County, there is a need to advise city and county governments as well as nonprofit organizations on public health and human service needs and approaches for improvement; and

WHEREAS, Austin Public Health proposed the creation of an Austin/Travis County Public Health Advisory Commission in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Committee of the Austin City Council revisited the creation of an Austin/Travis County Public Health Advisory Commission in 2021; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to collaborate with Travis County on the creation of a joint Austin/Travis County Public Health Commission to:

1. Monitor the public health status of Austin and Travis County;
2. Explore the best/evidence-based public health practices for areas that need improvement and provide recommendations;
3. Inform policy makers, administrators, and public health agencies at-large about the status of the public health system;
4. Provide an annual formal recommendation on the improvement of overall public health programs, projects, regulations, and services within the governing entities in the city and county;
5. Work to address health disparities that impact health outcomes for underserved patients and populations;
6. Gather input from the community on budget and programing recommendation to share with policy makers and health agencies annually; and
7. Report periodically to the Public Health Committee of the Austin City Council and to the Travis County Commissioners Court (or appropriate committee thereof).

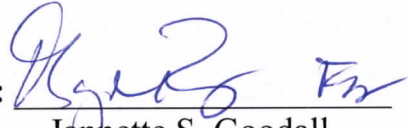
The commission should be composed of a balanced and diverse membership that represents a broad range of health and human services interests and lived experiences, and should be provided with staff support by Austin Public Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to return to council before March 30, 2022, with a formal recommendation on the creation and implementation of creating a joint Austin/Travis County Public Health Commission.

ADOPTED: September 30, 2021

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk