



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Director Juan Ortiz, Homeland Security and Emergency Management *JMO*

DATE: April 20, 2022

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 20220127-051 – Staff Update: Approve a resolution directing the City Manager to implement recommendations outlined by the Central Health Equity Policy Council's Pandemic Equity Committee.

On January 27, 2022, Council approved Resolution No. 20220127-51 which directed the City Manager to implement recommendations outlined by the Central Health Equity Policy Council's Pandemic Equity Committee to include formalization of the role of the Austin Equity Office in the Emergency Operations Center and emergency and continuity of plans. Also recommended was exploration of how an advisory panel might be formed to reflect and serve as the community's voice to provide input to City management regarding emergency management response.

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) office formalized a role for the Equity Officer in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in an update to the Standard Operating Guidelines of the EOC in 2021. The Equity Officer serves an advisory role to ensure emergency services and communication are equitable across the city of Austin and reaching our residents who are most vulnerable.

HSEM Planning documents have also been updated to reflect involvement of the Equity Officer during emergency planning.

Regarding the exploration of an advisory panel to serve as a community voice, initial discussions have identified an opportunity to offer regular meetings with community leaders and advocates to share information. This would be an opportunity for community members to share feedback with HSEM staff about emergency communication and strategy as well as for HSEM staff to share preparedness information for amplification. This meeting would be open to any interested community member but would have a particular focus on diversity and hearing the needs of vulnerable populations. The next step will be to reach out to community leaders to measure interest and availability.

Should you have additional comments or questions, please contact me at 512-974-0461.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager
Brion Oaks, Chief Equity Officer