



**JOINT INCLUSION COMMITTEE (JIC)
FY23-2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 20230329-002
HEALTH PRIORITY – EMERGENCY SHELTER**

Date: March 29, 2023

Subject: FY23-24 Budget Recommendation; Emergency Shelter – (JIC Health Priority)

Motioned by: Commissioner Rebecca Austen Seconded By: Commissioner Amy Temperley

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL ON FY23-2024 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Joint Inclusion Committee (“Committee”) of the City of Austin (“City”) advises City Council (“Council”) on issues pertaining to diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the need for emergency shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness in Austin exceeds the available capacity; and

WHEREAS, according to the Austin Chronicle article “Downtown Salvation Army to Close for Good in Two Weeks” published on February 28, 2023, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) identified 926 beds in 2022, of which 818 beds were occupied as of December 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Salvation Army operates a 100-bed emergency shelter in Downtown Austin at Eighth St and Neches, and announced on February 16, 2023 that it would permanently close this facility on March 15; and

WHEREAS, this emergency shelter received funding in fiscal year 2023 from Austin Public Health (APH), and APH was not notified of the immediate closure until February 17; and

WHEREAS, when this shelter closes, it will result in approximately 10% decreased capacity in emergency shelter; and

WHEREAS, this shelter is currently the only Downtown Austin shelter with beds for single women, and 50 of the 100 beds are reserved for adult single women; and

WHEREAS, women who are experiencing homelessness and lack access to emergency shelter are more vulnerable to sexual assault and other violent crimes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Committee recommends that APH makes investments in the FY2023-24 budget to restore equivalent (or greater) emergency shelter capacity and services to address the gap resulting from the closure of the Salvation Army shelter, including at least 50 beds allocated for adult single women.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 – 0

For: African American Resource Advisory Commission: Gregory Smith
Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Hanna Huang
Commission for Women: Rebecca Austen
Commission on Aging: Amy Temperley
Early Childhood Council: Raul Alvarez
Hispanic/Latino Quality-of Life-Resource Advisory Commission: Amanda Afifi
Human Rights Commission: Idonna Griffith
LGBTQ+ Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission: Charles Curry
Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities: Jennifer Powell

Against: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commission on Immigrant Affairs: Juan Vences-Benitez
African American Resource Advisory Commission: Gregory Smith

Attest: Jeremy Garza, Staff Liaison, Equity Office:

x Jeremy Garza