BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

20230411-08: Endorsement of the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission Recommendation 20230313-2a to Increase Emergency Housing Assistance Budget

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is facing a housing affordability crisis which has garnered national headlines (see NY Times) and data reports show that the year-over-year increase for one bedroom rent averaged 13.5% from 2021 to 2022 and now costs $1,680 per month on average; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Austin's 2021 LGBTQIA+ Quality of Life Study completed the year prior to this 13.5% average rent increase housing was the highest-ranked domain of priority for participants in the town hall meetings; and

WHEREAS, also in the referenced Study, 10% of respondents indicate they had been homeless in the last 5 year, 65% of respondents spent 30% or more of their income for housing while 9% spent more than 50%, and

WHEREAS, increased housing supply has significant lead time associated with pre-development and construction while older adults have immediate needs for rent relief; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin allocated nearly $40 million in emergency rent assistance during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, budget documents for FY 2022 – 2023 (pg. 136) include only a fraction of previous fiscal year funding at $6.7 million for emergency housing initiatives aimed at preventing homelessness via supportive services and financial assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council endorses the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission Recommendation 20230313-2a that the Austin City Council approve additional funding for emergency housing assistance to mitigate the affordability crisis and to accomplish strategic goals related to housing stabilization, economic opportunity, and affordability at an amount to be determined by the Joint Inclusion Committee.

Date of Approval: April 11, 2023

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 10-0 vote

Attest: Caitlin P. Oliver

Caitlin Oliver, staff liaison