



## RECOMMENDATION

### Commission for Women

#### Recommendation Number 20230405-009 Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Recommendation: Health- Emergency Shelter

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.

Date of Approval: Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 8-0 vote

Attest: Tabitha Taylor

(Staff Liaison, Tabitha Taylor)

For: Chair Rebecca Austen, Neva Fernandez, Diana Melendez, Pam Rattan, Priscilla Cortez,  
Julie Glasser, Josephine Serrata, and Jocelyn Tau,