



***HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION***  
***SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES***  
***TUESDAY, AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023***

The HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION convened in a SPECIAL CALLED meeting on *WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at the PERMITTING & DEVELOPMENT CENTER, ROOM #1401, 6310 WILHELMINA DELCO DRIVE in AUSTIN, TEXAS.*

Chair AMANDA AFIFI called the HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING to order at 5:39 pm CST.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Amanda Afifi, District 2 (*Chair*)  
Ivanna Neri, District 4 (*Vice-Chair*)  
Eliza May, Mayor

**Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:**

Daniela Silva, District 1  
Dulce Castañeda, District 10  
Leonor Vargas, District 9  
Sharon Vigil, District 7  
Vanessa Maldonado, District 3

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Jesus Perales, District 8**  
**District 6 – Vacant**  
**District 5 – Vacant**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Jeremy Garza, Equity Office  
Amanda Jasso, Equity Office

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

The first ten speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**The minutes from the meeting of JUNE 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 were approved on COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY's motion, COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI's second on an 8 – 0 vote (Off the Dias: District 5 & 6 due to vacancies; Absent: Commissioner Jesus Perales, District 8).**

**COMMUNITY BRIEFING**

2. Community Briefing from Angie Town and Sylvia Blanco from the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) on the redevelopment of the Santa Rita Courts – the first public housing complex in the United States.

**The presentation was made by Sylvia Blanco, Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA); HACA encourages commissioners to share information with community and send feedback to: [AdelanteSantaRita@hacanet.org](mailto:AdelanteSantaRita@hacanet.org)**

3. Community Briefing from Neomi Delgado & Martha Langford on senior services and senior recreation centers Austin for the City's FY24 budget.

**The presentation was made by Martha Langford and Neomi Delgado. They urge the commission to take action to advocate and support for a new senior center in north Austin.**

**STAFF BRIEFING**

4. Staff Briefing Parks & Recreation Department (PARC) on the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) Phase Two Update, presented by Heidi Tse & Christina Bies.

**The presentation was given by Hidi Tse and Christina Bies from Capital Delivery Services Department. There is a funding gap of five million.**

5. Staff Briefing from Austin Transportation on “Our Future I-35 Austin Cap & Stitch Program” presented by Shannon Riley, Lauren Ramirez, Susan Daniels & Michelle Marx

**Tabled to next month at the request of the presenters.**

6. Staff Briefing from the Economic Development Department (EDD) regarding the Elevate program and the use of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) for cultural & arts funding since the pandemic, presented by Meghan Wells.

**Tabled to next month at the request of the presenters.**

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

7. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to City Council regarding respite beds across Austin and the health impact of the sweeps at different homeless camps.

**No action taken. Tabled to next month at the request of the Chair.**

8. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to City Council regarding City of Austin’s partnership with Texas State Department of Public Safety.

**Peter Freeman and Craig Smith from APD Office of the Community Liaison present to collect questions and recommendations from the commission to send up the chain of command. Commissioner Silva request an update about DPS presence patrolling Austin’s Streets. Governor Abbotts increased DPS presence from 100 troopers to 130 troopers. When Mayor Watson and CM Garza ended the partnership, APD no longer got meetings or status updates from DPS, and they stopped taking direction from APD leadership. No timeline for when DPS will leave Austin, but the original plan was to have them until the 300 vacancies at APD are filled, but with the partnership ended, there is no way to know when DPS will stop patrolling Austin’s streets.**

9. Discussion on the Elevate program at EDD with possible action to recommend to city council improvement for the program, including language access and outreach to Spanish speaking communities.

**Discuss and possible action tabled to next month, to accommodate the postponed staff briefing on this issue.**

10. Discussion regarding the Interim City Manager's Proposed Budget for FY23-24, with possible action to approve a recommendation to city council regarding the impending changes to the Equity Office, Civil Rights Office, Small & Minority Business Resources, Office of Suitability, and Resilience Office.

**Discussion hosted and action has been tabled to next month. Commissioner Ivanna Neri encourages all commissioners to reach out to their appointed city council member about this issue.**

11. Discussion on workgroups and commission priorities with possible action on dissolving, establishing, or altering the membership of any workgroups, as needed by the Commission.

**No action taken. Tabled to next month at the request of the Chair.**

12. Discussion on determining a meeting date for a commission meeting hosted in-person with catered food, with possible action to confirm this in person event at the Commission's regular meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

**Confirmed August 22<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting of the commission will be hosted in person at City Hall.**

### **WORKING GROUPS/COMMITTEE UPDATES**

13. Budget & Policy Priorities Workgroup – updates from the last workgroup meeting on issues related to the FY23-24 and policy matters pertaining to their assignment (Budget & Policy Priorities Workgroup Members: *Commissioners Amanda Afifi, Sharon Vigil, Jesus Perales, Dulce Castañeda, and Leonor Vargas*).
14. Language Access Workgroup – Updates on the newly formed workgroup on issues pertaining to their assignment (Language Access Workgroup Members: *Amanda Afifi, Dulce Castaneda, Vanessa Maldonado, Daniela Silva, & Hector Ordaz*)

15. Public Safety & Immigrant Affairs Workgroup – Updates from the workgroup on issues pertaining to their assignment (Public Safety & Immigrant Affairs Workgroup Members: *Dulce Castaneda, Leonor Vargas, & Sharon Vigil*).
16. Quality-of-Life Studies Workgroup – related to planning for Quality-of-Life study process and collaboration with other commissions (QoL Study Workgroup Members: *Amanda Afifi, Sharon Vigil, & Jesus Perales*)
17. Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC) – General update and discussion on the coalition building work of the Committee. (JIC Primary & Alternate Representatives: *Amanda Afifi & Ivanna Neri*)

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

18. Call for items from Committee members:

**Our Future 35, the Cap and Stitch Program – Staff Briefing from Lauren Ramirez & Shannon Riley at Corridor Program Office (July 2023)**

**Staff Briefing from the Economic Development Department (EDD) about the Elevate Grant Program with discussion and possible action on a recommendation to City Council on the issue.**

**Discussion and possible action on passing a recommendation to City Council regarding the Equity Office.**

**Discussion and possible action on passing a recommendation to City Council on Senior Centers.**

**\*\*\*\*Staff Briefing from PARD on Gus Garcia Senior Center, with a planning member present who can explain the bond.**

**Discussion and possible action on a recommendation to City Council that will allow for a cost-of-living increase for all early childhood contracts. From the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regular meeting and presentation from Austin-Travis County Ready Families Collaborative**

**Budget Update for Town Halls & Budget Workshop**

**IN PERSON commission meeting in August with catered food!**

**Quarterly presentation from the APD Office of the Community Liaison; next one would be October, contact APD Community Liaison Staff**

**Request for staff presentation from EDD regarding the Elevate Program & HOT Funds for Cultural & Arts Funding.**

**ACM on the hiring processes & search for a new OPO Director & Chief Equity Officer & Office of Civil Rights.**

**\*\*\*City of Austin Resilience Officer – Staff Presentation on the new Resiliency Plan – How can the community be involved in that process. Resilience Austin Blueprint. (September or October) Laura Patino and Oriana Lopez.**

**Council Member Chito Vela posted a get together for all his appointed commissioner. Someone from the Animal Advisory Commission wants to collaborate with HLQoL on raising awareness and other information campaigns.**

**Austin Public Health Staff Briefing on Community Health Workers – Requested by Commissioner Garay (TBD) (also for JIC)**

**Discussion and possible action on the City's hiring search for a new Chief Equity Officer; now coordinated by Assistant City Manager, Rodney Gonzales. (TBD)**

**Office of Police Oversight – New Director search? Just general updates on the process. Which ACM is holding that process? Also updates on the elections for oversight and pending state legislation. (TBD)**

**Staff Briefing on Public Safety – Texas DPS Patrolling Austin Streets – APD Office of the Community Liaison (to be scheduled quarterly, next update in November 2023)**

**Foundation Communities for Re-Enrolling Medicaid (TBD)**

**Community Presentation from the Workers Defense Project (TBD)**

**ATP/Cap Metro about the initial phase of project connect – Yannis Banks**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

19. The meeting is adjourned at **8:24 pm** with no objection.

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The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access, and hybrid virtual meeting attendance is now available. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice of at least two days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call the Equity Office Commission Liaison, Jeremy Garza, at (512) 978-1797, or email at [jeremy.garza@austintexas.gov](mailto:jeremy.garza@austintexas.gov), for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Hispanic/Latino Quality-of-Life Resource Advisory Commission, please contact the Equity Office's Business Process Consultant, Jeremy Garza, by phone at (512) 978-1797, or (preferably) via email at [jeremy.garza@austintexas.gov](mailto:jeremy.garza@austintexas.gov).

**\*\*These meeting minutes were approved at the Commission's REGULAR MEETING on AUGUST 22nd, 2023 on COMMISSIONER DANIELA SILVA's motion, COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY's second on an 8 – 0 vote (Absent: Commissioner Vanessa Maldonado, District 3).**