



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023

Commission for Women (Official Name of Board or Commission)

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

The Commission for Women serves as an advisory body that advocates for and inspires the city council and city manager to prioritize women's quality of life, so that Austin becomes the most equitable city in the nation for women and girls.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

(Reference all reports, recommendations, letters or resolutions presented to the City Council on mission-specific issues. If some of the elements of the mission statement were not acted on by the board in the past year, the report should explain why no action was taken.)

- a. **Recommendations:** The Commission for Women researched and approved the following recommendations aligned to the mission. These were submitted for consideration in the FY2023-24 budget cycle. The recommendations on the Health Emergency Shelter and Public Safety - PERF were also included in the Joint Inclusion Committee's aggregate budget submission for FY2023-24.
 - i. [Recommendation](#) 20230503-005: Collective Sex Crimes Response Model
 - ii. [Recommendation](#) 20230405-009: Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Recommendation: Health- Emergency Shelter

- iii. [Recommendation 20230405-010](#): Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Recommendation: Public Safety-Police Executive Research Forum Actions
- iv. [Recommendation 20230405-012](#): City Manager Appointment
- v. [Recommendation 20220713-006](#): Support the GRACE Act

b. **Working Groups:** The Commission for Women focused on issues regarding gender and race equity, economic equity, safety, and health for women and girls, with the following active working groups. The FY 2023-2024 Budget working group was established for Commissioners to make Budget recommendations aligned with the quality of life focus areas: economic equity, safety, health, and gender and race equity and discuss the budget with other Commissions. The Recognition of Equity for Women and Girls working group was formed to develop a program to recognize leaders in the community who advance equity for women and girls. The work of the Homelessness, Safety, and Health working groups was completed on Nov.2, 2022. The Quality of Life Study working group was formed for the Quality of Life Study process.

- i. FY 2023-2024 Budget
- ii. Recognition of Equity for Women and Girls
- iii. Quality of Life Study
- iv. Homelessness
- v. Safety
- vi. Health

c. **Community Engagement:** The Commission for Women engaged with City initiatives and community members as follows:

- i. Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC) – Chair Austen represented the Commission for Women at regular meetings of the JIC, and at special called meetings on the budget. The Commission participated in virtual forums with the JIC and Equity Office to solicit community input for the annual budget cycle.

d. **Briefings:** The following briefings and presentations were held at Commission meetings:

- i. July 13, 2022
 - 1. Presentation by Carlos Soto, Research Analyst, Community Action Network (CAN) on women and children.
- ii. August 3, 2022
 - 1. Presentation by Amanda Rohlich, Food Policy Advisor and Emmie DiCicco, Food Policy Intern, from the Office of Sustainability on Austin’s First-Ever Food Plan
- iii. September 7, 2022

1. Presentation by Jeremy Garza, Commissions/Neighborhood Liaison in the Equity Office regarding Quality of Life Study.
- iv. January 11, 2023
 1. Presentation by Commander Vallejo, Lieutenant Leleux, Assistant Chief Greenwalt, and Victim Services Manager, Kachina Clark regarding the PERF report.
- v. April 5, 2023
 1. Update by the Austin Travis County Sexual Assault Response and Resource Co-Chairs regarding the Collective Sex Crimes Response Model Project-PERF Report

e. General Business

- i. The Commission updated and approved the Commission for Women charter, including vision, mission, values, working groups and alignment with the CoA strategic priorities.
- ii. The Commission held a Special Called Meeting on 10/29/2022 to discuss Quality of Life Study, including timeline, scope of work, and next steps.

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

(If any of the board's actions were outside the scope of the mission statement, the report should explain the non-compliance issues.)

The Commission for Women remains in compliance with the mission statement.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

(Make sure the goals and objectives fall within the mission statement of the board/commission.)

The Commission for Women goals are summarized below, with more details in the [2023 charter](#).

- Analyze needs and develop plans for a Quality-of-Life study focused on women/girls and gender equity.
- Analyze needs and make budget recommendations aligned with the quality-of-life focus areas: economic equity, safety, health, and gender and race equity.
- Recognize leaders and organizations who are making an impact on Austin becoming the most equitable city for women and girls.
- Reassess recognition process and program. Consider recognition via proclamation, website and social media in lieu of an event, given budget and other constraints.

- Advocate for gender and race equity through the City of Austin annual budget process, initiatives of the Joint Inclusion Committee and Equity Office, and engagement with other quality of life and advisory commissions.