



***HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22nd, 2023***

The HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on *WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22nd, 2023 at CITY HALL, BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ROOM #1101, 301 W 2ND STREET in AUSTIN, TEXAS.*

Chair AMANDA AFIFI called the HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING to order at 5:47 pm CST.

Commissioners in Attendance:

- Amanda Afifi, District 2 (*Chair*)**
- Ivanna Neri, District 4 (*Vice-Chair*)**
- Daniela Silva, District 1**
- Dulce Castañeda, District 10**
- Eliza May, Mayor**
- Jesus Perales, District 8**
- Leonor Vargas, District 9**

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

- Sharon Vigil, District 7**

Commissioners Absent:

- District 3 – Vanessa Maldonado**
- District 6 – Vacant**
- District 5 – Vacant**

Staff in Attendance:

- Jeremy Garza, Equity Office**

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 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING on August 2nd, 2023.
The minutes from the SPECIAL CALLED meeting of AUGUST 2nd, 2023 were approved on COMMISSIONER DANIELA SILVA’s motion, COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY’s second on an 8 – 0 vote (Absent: Commissioner Vanessa Maldonado, District 3).

STAFF BRIEFING

2. Staff Briefing from Austin Transportation on “Our Future I-35 Austin Cap & Stitch Program” presented by Shannon Riley, Lauren Ramirez, Susan Daniels & Michelle Marx **Presentation postponed at the request of staff from the Austin Transportation Department. Tabled indefinitely, or until staff are available to present on this topic.**
3. 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, Laura Odegaard, Sylnovia Holt Rabb, Morgan Messick, and Justin Parsons.
Presentation made by Sylnovia Holt Rabb & Lauren Odegaard from the Economic Development Department. See backup for presentation copy.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Discussion on the 2022-2023 Annual Report, authored by Chair Afifi

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

5. Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to City Council to increase funding for respite beds across Austin and to address the health impacts of the homeless camp sweeps.
The motion to approve the recommendation on Medical Respite and Street Medicine that encourages the Austin City Council to allocate funds and explore all available resources in order to accommodate more beds with an emphasis on increasing beds for women and beds that accommodate pets; and recommends the Austin City Council direct Austin Police Department to work and coordinate directly with the Street Medicine Team to establish a protocol so that they can complete their health checks, case work and visits if their arrival intersects with APD sweep activities was approved

on COMMISSIONER DANIELA SILVA’s motion, COMMISSIONER JESUS PERALES’s second on an 8 – 0 vote (Absent: Commissioner Vanessa Maldonado)

6. Discussion on the Elevate program at EDD with possible action to recommend to city council to improve the program, including language access and outreach to Spanish speaking communities.
The motion to move this item to the Language Access Workgroup to discuss and draft a recommendation to City Council on the Economic Development Department’s grant programs and foreign language accessibility was approved on COMMISSIONER DANIELA CASTAÑEDA’s motion, COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS’s second on an 8 – 0 vote (Absent: Commissioner Vanessa Maldonado),.

7. Discussion regarding the Interim City Manager’s Proposed Budget for FY23-24, with possible action to approve a recommendation to city council to postpone the impending changes to the Equity Office, Civil Rights Office, Small & Minority Business Resources, Office of Sustainability, and Resilience Office.
The motion to approve the recommendation to City Council to maintain the independent autonomy of the Equity Office, Civil Rights Office, Small & Minority Business Resources, Office of Sustainability, and Resilience Office was approved on COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS’s motion, COMMISSIONER JESUS PERALES’s second on an 8 – 0 vote (Abstain: Commissioner Eliza May; Absent: Commissioner Vanessa Maldonado).

8. Discussion and possible action on a recommendation to City Council that requests a cost-of-living increase for all early childhood contracts. (Follow-up action item from the June 27th, 2023 regular meeting and presentation from Austin-Travis County Ready Families Collaborative.)
Commissioner Leonor Vargas also sits on the Early Childhood Council, and their meeting with early childhood service providers and homecare providers that demonstrated many financial struggles and concerns about reimbursement that is not enough to cover staff. This does impact the well-being of our families, economically, socially, physically, emotionally.
Council Member Vanessa Fuentes successfully passed a FY24 budget amendment to include a 20% increase to social service contractors that provide childcare services. Commissioners request City Council Member Vanessa Fuentes provide an update on how that increase has impacted Early Childhood services and resources. Commissioners also request an update from United Way, GAVA, and APH. Item tabled for six months, until February 2024.

9. Discussion on the 2024 Boards & Commissions Report on the departmental responses to B&C budget recommendation, including potential action to authorize additional commissioners to attend the Budget Workshop with department leadership hosted on Saturday, September 9th, 2023.
The motion to authorize Commissioner Ivanna Neri to attend the Budget Workshop on with permission to speak to other commissioners and city staff regarding the FY24 and

FY25 budget was approved on COMMISSIONER SHARON VIGIL’s motion, COMMISSIONER DANILEA SILVA’s second on an 8 – 0 vote (Absent: Commissioner Vanessa Maldonado).

- 10. Review and discuss the scope of all current working groups and possible action to update membership.
No action taken.

WORKING GROUPS/COMMITTEE UPDATES

- 11. 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*).
- 12. 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*)
- 13. 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*).
- 14. 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*)
- 15. Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC) – General update and discussion on the coalition building work of the Committee. (JIC Primary & Alternate Representatives: *Amanda Afifi & Ivanna Neri*)

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 16. Call for items from Committee members:

Discussion on Chief Chacon’s retirement and other department leadership vacancies (including Office of Police Oversight, the Equity Office, the Civil Rights Office, and many others) that are being led by interim director, with a request for Assistant City Manager Veronica Bresiño to provide a briefing on the topic.

September 5th at 9:30am to attend Gus Garcia

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

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. (PARD)

Budget Update for Town Halls & Budget Workshop

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

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)

Staff Briefing on Public Safety & Texas DPS Patrolling Austin Streets – APD Office of the Community Liaison (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

Chair AMANDA AFIFI adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the October 24th, 2023 meeting on COMMISSIONER JESUS PERALES' motion, COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY's second on a on a 6-0 vote (Absent: *Daniela Silva and Vanessa Maldonado*).