

Recommendation of the African American Resource Advisory Commission in support of the Human Rights Commission Recommendation on Combating Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Anti-Arab Sentiments (Recommendation Number: 20231106_001)

WHEREAS, the African American Quality of Life Initiative was established in 2005 with the explicit charge of addressing and redressing the chronic disparity between the overall quality of life for Austin's African-American residents and for other Austin residents; and

WHEREAS, this Commission has continuously devoted advisory and critical focus on Austin's efforts to foster a community which truly embraces diversity and upholds the principles of equality and human rights; and

WHEREAS, historic disparities persist in education, provision of public services, housing, health, poverty, transportation access, and unemployment serve as mediating factors in service to systemic differential treatment documented from post-slavery, through implementation of the 1928 Master Plan, and to the current era; and

WHEREAS, these disparities have offered lessons and lived experience in de facto segregation, social indifference, targeted and sustained state-sanctioned violence, familial displacement and separation, cultural erasure, generational trauma, and death; and

WHEREAS, based on this history, this Commission vigorously supports the creation and sustaining of communities locally and abroad where all residents can live free from fear and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, this Commission joins with the Human Rights Commission in condemning the Hamas kidnappings, mourning the loss of lives, and the dehumanizing descriptions of Palestinians being promoted to justify criminal wars acts;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the African American Resource Advisory Commission supports the Human Rights Commission Recommendation Number: 20231106_001, with a call for the Austin City Council to express its support for de-escalation in the Israel-Palestine conflict. As stated in the Human Rights Commission recommendation, this includes but is not limited to a demand for the release of civilians abducted by Hamas on 10/7/23, resuming delivery of life-saving supplies, and condemning all acts of Islamophobia, anti-semitism, and anti-Arab sentiment. Local recommendations include timely reporting on hate crimes, support for victims, and the continuation of work by City Council and relevant organizations to promote education, tolerance, and mutual respect.