



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Human Rights Commission

Recommendation Number: 20240325-04: Budget Proposal for Increased Emergency Housing Assistance

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is facing a housing affordability crisis as data reports show that the overall median rent is now \$2,100, with the median rent for a one bedroom at \$1,443.

WHEREAS, per the Eviction Lab at Princeton University, eviction filings in Austin have soared to over 50% higher than the pre-pandemic average rate, with communities of color drastically more at risk of eviction in a state with some of the country's weakest protections for renters.

WHEREAS, a record 2.1 million renters, more than half of the state's renter households, are "cost burdened," meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities per a recent Harvard University study.

WHEREAS, the State of Texas shuttered its statewide rent relief program last summer leaving it up to municipalities to act on the growing rental crisis. Austin has stepped up to the plate, most recently in December with an \$8 million rental assistance and eviction support through the City of Austin Housing Department's "I Belong in Austin" program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Human Rights Commission encourages the Austin City Council to allocate at least another \$8 million dollars in rent relief funds and explore all available means in order to create short, medium, and long term solutions for individuals at risk of eviction in Austin.

Date of Approval: _____

Record of the vote:

Attest: _____