



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Austin Travis County Public Health Commission

Recommendation Number: (20240403-006): Equity Office Funding

WHEREAS, the Austin/Travis County Public Health Commission (“ATC PHC”) serves as an advisory body to the City Council and Travis County Commissioners Court concerning public health programs, projects, services, public health and human services needs, and approaches for improvement.; exploring the best/evidence-based public health practices for areas that need improvement and provide recommendations; providing an annual formal recommendation on the improvement of the overall public health programs, projects, regulations, and services within the governing entities in the city and the county; working to inform strategies that address health disparities that impact health outcomes for underserved populations; and gathering input from the community on budget and programming recommendations to share with policymakers and health agencies annually; and

WHEREAS, persons aged 65 and older represent the fastest-growing age group in Austin, expanding from 55,695 (7.0% of 2010 population) to 91,733 (9.5% of 2020 population), and growing at a rate of 64.7%; and

WHEREAS the latest City of Austin Planning Department show Austin residents are 48% white, 32% Hispanic/Latina/o/x, 8% Asian/Asian American, 7% Black/African American, and 4% Multiracial; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey by the City of Austin Office of Police Oversight indicated 22% of respondents identified as part of the LGBTQIA+ community; and

WHEREAS, the Age-Friendly Austin Community Feedback Survey indicates 23% of respondents were living with a disability; and

WHEREAS, while not an all-inclusive list, all of the demographics specified above are at risk for discrimination and being targeted, generally the older adults in those populations are the most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, in the last twelve months, the City of Austin has seen an increase in discrimination, targeting and persecution of multiple ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, the Equity Office mission is “To provide leadership, guidance, and insight on equity to improve the quality of life for Austinites and achieve the vision of making Austin the most livable city in the nation for ALL;” and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Equity Office is currently operating without a permanently appointed Equity Officer; and


WHEREAS, there are initiatives within the City of Austin to consolidate the Equity Office with other group(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Joint Inclusion Committee encourages the Austin City Council to act to maintain the Equity Office and further, to ensure adequate funding to hire and maintain a Chief Equity Officer, and to designate adequate resources to Austin residents who may be experiencing discrimination, marginalization, hate crimes or persecution;and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Inclusion Committee encourages the Austin City Council to support the Equity Office's ongoing work to address the needs of Austinites and continue to convey that equity in Austin remains a high priority by retaining the Equity Office as originally created as a standalone department.

Date of Approval: April 3, 2024

Record of the vote: 7-0, Commissioner Crookham absent

Attest:  _____

Larry Wallace Jr., Chair