



RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: 20260309-009: Expansion of MPox, STI, and Vaccination Programs

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has recognized the importance of integrated vaccination and prevention programs, including Hepatitis and Flu outreach, as essential components of LGBTQIA+ public health efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has sustained the loss of \$800,000 in funding for HIV, STI, and Mpox through 2025-2026 fiscal planning, and a failed city Tax Rate Election has further resulted in a loss of funding; and

WHEREAS, community partners have reached out to the LGBTQ+ Quality of Life Advisory Commission expressing grave concern regarding the loss of federal, state, and city funding, which impacts vital health partners such as the KIND Clinic and other community providers that have relied on this city funding in previous years; and

WHEREAS, Austin health departments and community health centers serving LGBTQIA+ residents, including community-based clinics and nonprofit providers, have demonstrated strong capacity and effectiveness in delivering culturally competent vaccination and prevention services; and

WHEREAS, MPox continues to present an ongoing public health concern, particularly for LGBTQIA+ communities, and requires sustained vaccination, education, and outreach efforts rather than one-time emergency responses; and

WHEREAS, recent reductions in federal and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) public health funding have placed increased pressure on local governments to maintain continuity of vaccination, STI, and HIV prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, expanded local funding would support not only MPox vaccination efforts, but also broader STI and HIV prevention services that are critical to reducing long-term public health costs and preventing outbreaks; and

WHEREAS, ensuring access to timely, accurate, and culturally competent preventive healthcare improves community health outcomes and reduces strain on emergency and acute care systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LGBTQ+ Quality of Life Advisory Commission recommends that the Austin City Council approve an increase of up to \$100,000 in funding to Austin Public Health to expand Mpox vaccination, STI prevention, and HIV prevention programs targeting at-risk and underserved populations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the expanded funding should support outreach, education, vaccination access, and prevention services delivered through trusted community-based providers and public health partners serving the LGBTQIA+ community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Austin should restore the loss of \$800,000 in general Health and Mental services funding from last year's fiscal budget as referenced in the LGBTQ Commission's March 2025 recommendation outlining subsidies for Prep Access, Mental and Physical Health programming including HIV, MPox and STI prevention and care.

Date of Approval: March 9, 2026

Motioned By: Chair Coyne

Seconded By: Commissioner Brown

Vote: 9-0

For: Chair Coyne, Vice Chair McLeod, Secretary Benson, Commissioners Brown, Davis, Fierro-Pérez, Knutson, Pituk, Rivas

Against: None

Abstain: None

Off the dais: None

Absent: Commissioners Bandit, Johnson, Krueger, Neal

Attest: *Ryan Sperling*

(Ryan Sperling, Staff Liaison)