

2019-2020 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Budget Office

REQUEST NO.: 27

REQUESTED BY: Tovo

DATE REQUESTED: 8/8/19

DATE POSTED: 8/29/19

REQUEST: Were any of the budget recommendations put forth by the Commission for Women included in the City Manager's proposed budget?

RESPONSE:

A brief summary of each board and commission recommendation and department responsive information are included in the attached document. Recommendations from the Commission for Women can be found on pages 8-11.



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

African American Resource Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Health Equity in Improvements associated with outcomes	Per a 2018 report by the Community Action Network, African Americans lead in the following areas: 25% are uninsured, 25% of black adults are earning less than \$25,000, and experience 5 or more days of poor mental health. Commission recommends that \$4 million be allocated to provide increase healthcare outreach and services within the African American community in Austin.	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health anticipates allocating \$1.6 million for programs assisting women who reside in low-income housing developments or in the surrounding neighborhoods. Additionally, the Health Equity, Communicable Disease, and Chronic Disease units/programs also provide direct-screening services, health education, and promotion services designed to reduce health disparities among African Americans and other disparate groups, with total funding of \$3.4 million.	page 81
Funding to Eliminate Disparities in APD Stops/Searches	Austin has had a long history of strained relationships between the black community and the police department. The Commission is recommending \$1,000,000 be invested into the Office of the Police Oversight to specifically address the disproportionate rate in which African Americans are stopped, searched, arrested and subjected to the use of force in our City.	Office of Police Oversight	The Office of Police Oversight supports the Government that Works Outcome through \$1.7 million and eleven positions to provide impartial oversight of APD's conduct, practices, and policies to enhance accountability, inform the public to increase transparency, and create sustainable partnerships throughout the community. New funding of \$453,000 for two positions, a communications consultant, advertising, printing, educational, promotional, and travel for City business is included in the FY 2019-20 budget to help the Office of Police Oversight improve transparency and enhance accountability.	page 141

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

African American Resource Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
STEM Job Training	The unemployment rate for Black residents in Travis County is about 10%, which is twice the unemployment rate for white residents (5%). The Hispanic unemployment rate is 7%. The Commission recommends investing \$6,000,000 in the areas of technology, STEM, and healthcare.	Austin Public Health Austin Parks and Recreation Department	Austin Public Health’s STEM job training contract is increasing by \$200,000 for a total of \$381,000. In addition to APH funding, \$11,400 is included to expand STEM afterschool programming offered by PARD.	page 83
Public Safety	There exists a lack of fair administration of justice among the African American community in Austin. The Commission recommends enhancing and building relationships between community members, organizations, and public safety professionals to define, prioritize, and address community safety needs.	Austin Police Department	Building off a one-time \$10,000 investment in the previous year to provide fair and impartial policing, de-escalation, and disability awareness training for APD officers, \$50,000 in ongoing training funds are included in the budget.	page 117
Healthcare Outreach Programs	The uninsured rate for Blacks is 13%, and the uninsured rate for Asians is 14%, significantly higher than the 8% uninsured rate for Whites in Travis County. The Commission recommends that \$2 million to be allocated to provide healthcare outreach and services within the African American community in Austin.	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health anticipates allocating \$1.6 million on African American healthcare outreach, including sickle cell outreach, mental health and wellness investments, HIV prevention, outreach to populations who frequently have less access to sexual health resources, culturally congruent prenatal and birth support services, increasing awareness of and engagement in existing health promotion programs, and providing support to sustain engagement in healthy lifestyle behaviors.	page 81

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

African American Resource Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Cultural Arts Programming	Increasing educational opportunity and educational success for African Americans is one way to bridge the economic divide and increase access to opportunity with the arts providing a gateway. The Commission recommends \$3,000,000 be allocated to increase cultural and learning opportunities to African Americans in the City of Austin.	Economic Development Department	The existing Cultural Arts Fund budget provides nearly \$13.0 million of Hotel Occupancy Tax funds annually for promotion and servicing of the arts. In FY2018-19, nearly \$3.3 million in funding was provided to applicants from historically underrepresented communities. In FY2018-19, \$700,000 in arts funding was provided to applicants who identified as African American and supplemental funds increased the funding by over \$76,000 for those who identify as African American. The Cultural Funding Program Review Process will be finalized in the spring of 2020 and could affect the resource allocation.	page 151

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Arts Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Continued Funding for Capacity Building Programs and Creative Space Assistance Program	Members of the Arts Community, especially those from historically underrepresented and underfunded groups, are facing continuing financial challenges such as housing, affordable creative spaces, low income and access to opportunity. The Commission recommends continuing to fund the Capacity Building Program and the Creative Space Assistance Program (CSAP).	Economic Development Department	Economic Development is expanding the formerly named Art Space Assistant Program (ASAP) with funding of \$750,000 in FY 2019-20, which offers much-needed support to nonprofit arts and music groups facing permanent displacement, those previously displaced, or those facing lease renewals at substantially higher rates amidst a volatile real estate market.	page 151

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Asian American Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Budget Object Codes for Translation and Interpretation Services for All City Departments	Providing translation and interpretation services is necessary for individuals who speak English “less than very well” to access city services and participate in city activities. The Commission recommends that all City Departments budget a certain amount in the new Translation and Interpretation object codes that would force Departments to assess their need for these services.	Communications and Public Information	The budget and expenditures for budget object code 5800 services-translators and 5801 services-interpretation is publicly available at Open Budget (budget.austintexas.gov). The Language Access Program Coordinator assists departments in coordinating these services and evaluating their need for these services on an annual basis.	
Install room divider for AARC Ballroom	There is a high demand for meeting and activity spaces at the Asian American Resource Center (AARC). The facility currently has a small conference room and small classrooms, as well as a large ballroom. The Commission recommends funding the installation of a room divider for the AARC Ballroom based on the original Phase 1 Master Plan to accommodate increased demand for mid-sized meeting space.	Parks and Recreation Department	The current Asian American Resource Center operating budget does not have the ability to cover the funds to purchase the dividers, although more funding may be available through Parkland Dedication.	
Create an Immigrant Affairs Office with at least one full time staff person*	Immigrant and refugee communities are underrepresented in policy and budget discussions in Austin. We recommend that the City create an Immigrant Affairs Office, with at least one full-time staff member. This office would act as a central location for information about city services and programs that are available to immigrants.	Equity Office	The Equity Office was created in 2016 to focus on advancing equity in all aspects of City operations. The FY 2019-20 budget includes \$1.4 million and six positions to carry out this mission. One new position is being added in FY 2019-20 to serve as the single point of contact for the immigrant community.	page 141

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Asian American Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Mental Health Education, Outreach, and Service Provision	High levels of mental distress and serious mental illness is prevalent in Austin’s Asian Pacific-Islander community. However, API persons experiencing these conditions are less likely to seek treatment due to social stigma, lack of awareness, and language barriers. The Commission recommends the creation of a mental health outreach, education, and service campaign targeted to the API community.	Austin Public Health	In FY 2019-20, APH includes a total of \$5.3 million for mental health services, with an additional \$200,000 to build mental health service provider capacity to meet specific linguistic and cultural needs of the Asian Pacific-Islander community and to expand access to affirming mental health therapy for the LGBTQIA+ community.	page 82
Transportation to City Events Pilot	Many individuals experience difficulty in getting to and from AARC/City events from certain parts of town. The Commission recommends creating a pilot program to provide transportation of socially-isolated residents to Asian American Resource Center (AARC) events as well as other city events.	Parks and Recreation Department	The Parks and Recreation Department allocates \$217,000 toward providing transportation to City events, such as trips to and from senior activity centers and various appointments to help senior citizens manage healthy lifestyles. In order to expand access to City events for socially isolated residents of Austin, Parks and Recreation is initiating a transportation pilot project in FY 2019-20 for \$6,500 by providing transportation to 10 evening and weekend events throughout the year for seniors at the Asian-American Resource Center.	page 96

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Addition of EMS Emergency Communications Staff	Sustained high volume in the EMS emergency communications center is causing an increase in the time it takes to dispatch emergency calls. A solution is to develop a peak-load schedule adding personnel during the busiest periods identified by EMS in an analysis comparing call volume and staffing levels.	Emergency Medical Services	EMS will continue to explore staffing models with schedules that address employee workload, while continuing to provide excellent customer service.	
Implementation of Paramedic Response Units (PRUs)	Sustained high volume in the Austin/Travis County region continues to challenge emergency medical services to maintain response time performance. The Commission recommends the implementation of a Paramedic Response Unit (PRU) program that will improve service performance and access for all emergency care patients.	Emergency Medical Services	EMS will continue to explore opportunities to use existing resources, however, additional resources are needed to fully implement this recommendation at this time.	

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Commission for Women

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Sickle Cell Anemia	<p>HHSD has contracted with the Sickle Cell Anemia Association of Austin since 2003 to serve clients with sickle cell disease and their families, as well as targeted at-risk populations. The current contract expires September 30, 2019. The Commission recommends to continue funding the Foundation and its services at the amount authorized on September 17, 2015 by City Council.</p>	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health anticipates allocating \$573,517 for three sickle cell agreements.	page 81
Austin Adoption of Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*	<p>The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (“CEDAW”) referenced in Resolution No. 20170323-054, has yet to be adopted by the City. The Commission urges the adoption of an ordinance implementing CEDAW principles into the Code of the City of Austin and requests funding of \$46,965 - \$117,413 to implement CEDAW program and policy reforms.</p>	Equity Office	The Equity Office supports the principles of not discriminating against women. This recommendation would require further Council action to be implemented.	
Community health resources to provide crisis response and intervention	<p>Immigrants and other marginalized groups are at greater risk of experiencing violence yet are less likely to call police in an emergency. The commission recommends funding for community health workers to provide culturally resonant trauma-informed crisis response and intervention resources without police intervention.</p>	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health is finalizing an agreement to develop and offer a series of online and in-person trainings for community health workers. In addition, the Department has a contract with SAFeline Crisis Advocate to offer advocacy and/or financial assistance to increase immediate safety.	

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Commission for Women

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Hiring of 5 FTE Victim Services Counselors	While an average of 25-30 reported sexual assaults occur in Austin every month, there are insufficient resources to serve the needs of victims. Per Recommendation 20180214-04c, the Commission recommends that five full-time victim services counselor positions be added to the Victim Services Division of APD.	Austin Police Department	Austin Police Department allocates \$3.3 million toward Victim Services. This includes responding to the psychological and emotional needs of victims and their families, as well as community members and first responders experiencing trauma. The FY 2019-20 budget will increase the current number of 30 victim services counselors by two, and includes an additional \$50,000 for EMDR training for counselors working in the community. APD will also continue to address sexual assault through the SAKI grant in the amount of \$3.0 million.	page 113
Funding for Violence Prevention and Crisis Response Programs	On August 6, 2018 the Public Safety Commission passed Recommendation 20180824-03a, and in support of the Recommendation, the Commission for Women recommends funding violence prevention and crisis response programs to decrease the human-caused crimes of child, sexual and domestic violence, and to stop violence and abuse through prevention and intervention.	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health anticipates funding for SAFE's Expect Respect Program, which focuses on youth exposed to violence, aims to increase safety, and supports skills for healthy relationships among vulnerable youth. As well as Communities in Schools services, to provide school-based workshops and community education aimed at preventing child abuse, and the Council on At-Risk Youth, to provide violence prevention training and behavior counseling in an effort to reduce disciplinary actions.	



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Commission for Women

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Women's Hall of Fame	<p>Since 2011, the City of Austin’s Commission for Women has hosted an annual induction process for the Women’s Hall of Fame. The Commission recommends developing the Hall of Fame into a broader event by funding \$14,250 to deliver a high impact, 500-person event in FY2020 to recognize leaders who are advancing equity for women and girls in Austin.</p>	Equity Office	<p>The Equity Office agrees with naming women to an Austin Women’s Hall of Fame to commemorate our history and represent our intentional recognition of those whose names we choose to honor, and whose values we reflect as an institution.</p> <p>The Equity Mini-Grant Fund is a newly established process intended for small, local community organizations to receive funding to improve the quality of life of Austin residents. This event would be an eligible candidate for this funding.</p>	page 152
Menstrual Equity Pilot Program	<p>Menstruation products, such as pads, tampons, cups, and liners, are necessary purchases for the vast majority of women. However, 1 in 4 women struggled to purchase period supplies within the past year due to lack of income. The Commission recommends funding the development and enactment of a menstrual equity pilot program in selected City of Austin facilities</p>	Austin Public Health	<p>Austin Public Health can utilize existing staff to work on this project. The Department receives feminine products periodically from Capital Area Food Bank and other organizations but cannot estimate how much has been received. In addition, the Department has allocated \$10,000 from savings in the FY19 budget to purchase menstruation products. In FY20, APH will collaborate with the Parks and Recreation Department and Austin Public Library on a plan for distribution in the community.</p>	page 81

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Commission for Women

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
<p>Responsiveness to people experiencing homelessness and mental health crisis</p>	<p>People experiencing homelessness in Austin frequently use libraries. Library staff should be trained to engage appropriately with people who are transient, experiencing mental crises, and/or are in need of community resources. The Commission recommends \$5,000 training for library staff in order to provide trauma-informed services for people experiencing homelessness and other crises.</p>	<p>Austin Public Library</p>	<p>Austin Public Library agrees with this recommendation. To better engage with people experiencing homelessness and/or a mental health crisis, the FY 2019-20 budget includes funding for two staff to attend a Non-Violent Crisis Certification Training course, which is a train-the-trainer program. These newly certified trainers will be responsible for training other APL staff.</p>	<p>pages 56-58</p>

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Fund Municipal ID Feasibility Study	City Council has previously passed resolutions to address the need for a safe, secure ID card that can be trusted by police, but action was never completed. The Commission recommends that Resolution 20171211-225 be fully funded and that the task force be directed to look specifically at how other cities have implemented city or municipal identification programs.	Austin Public Health	One-time funding of \$125,000 was included in the FY 2019-20 budget to conduct a Municipal ID Feasibility Study.	page 499
Increased support for legal services for low-income immigrants seeking immigration legal assistance	Immigrants in Austin are facing a rising demand for low-cost and pro bono immigration legal services. The Commission recommends an increase in current funding dedicated to low-income immigrants to at least \$500,000 to address the rising number of individuals seeking services for removal defense, immigration relief filings, citizenship and naturalization services, and other immigration legal needs.	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health will allocate nearly \$315,000 for immigrant legal services. In addition to legal assistance, this funding supports education about eligible benefits for immigrants throughout the community.	page 81
Sponsor Naturalization Clinics for Austin residents	Austin has approximately 7,153 Legal Permanent Residents eligible to apply for naturalization to become US Citizens. Naturalization allows people to become more secure members of our community. We recommend allocating \$72,000 to fund one citizenship clinic per month (12 total) over the next fiscal year. Each clinic is expected to cost \$6,000 and will serve 100 Austinites seeking naturalization per month.	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health has reallocated funds to dedicate \$115,000 towards a 2-year agreement for citizenship clinics, forums and assistance with application fees and legal representation	page 81

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Immigrant Heritage Festival hosted by Commission on Immigrant Affairs	Austin city residents have expressed a desire to participate in an immigration focused event bringing the various immigrant communities together. The Commission recommends funding an Immigrant Heritage Festival costing \$10,000 to cover expenses including food, space, awards, marketing and outreach, event promotion, performers and entertainment, informational literature, other associated fees.	Equity Office	<p>The Equity Office supports that this parade should be held, there is a tremendous need for cultural celebration of communities of color to ensure all Austinites feel valued within the community. The City has an established process for cultural heritage and cultural arts events via the Economic Development Department and believe this parade would be an eligible candidate for this funding.</p> <p>Information for festival funding can be found at austintexas.gov/department/cultural-heritage-festivals-program</p> <p>In addition, the Equity Office would like to hear from applicants about potential barriers or gaps in the application process.</p>	page 151
Create an Immigrant Affairs Office with at least one full time staff person*	Immigrant and refugee communities are underrepresented in policy and budget discussions in Austin. We recommend that the City create an Immigrant Affairs Office, with at least one full-time staff member. This office would act as a central location for information about city services and programs that are available to immigrants.	Equity Office	The Equity Office was created in 2016 to focus on advancing equity in all aspects of City operations. The FY 2019-20 budget includes \$1.4 million and six positions to carry out this mission. One new position is being added this year to serve as the single point of contact for the immigrant community.	page 141

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
The creation of a rental assistance grant to assist refugee families	Rising housing costs in the city have led to a lack of affordable housing in the central city and accessible areas. We recommend the City of Austin create a rental assistance grant of \$500,000 to help refugee and asylee families with affordable housing costs in Austin, so they can secure or remain in housing with access to transportation, employment, and services, which would provide a \$300 stipend per month.	Neighborhood Housing and Community Development	NHCD is finalizing an emergency rental assistance program that can be administered in partnership with the Austin Public Health Department. Funding from the Housing Trust Fund in the amount of \$500k is planned to support this critical need. The department is committed to marketing the program to all eligible households, including refugee families.	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Commission on Seniors

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Support for ATCEMS Senior Home Safety Program Request for \$10, 000 for Social service partner agency portal and user access	The EMS Senior Home Safety program is designed to address in-home safety issues related to fall prevention and at present does not have the capacity to navigate clients to additional services such as transportation, medical/dental, in-home healthcare or food assistance. The Commission on Seniors supports the ATCEMS request for adding standard user access to the existing Social Solutions/Apricot case management platform used by EMS Senior Home Safety Program for up to 16 new users at a cost of \$10,000.	Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services	The FY 2019-20 Emergency Medical Services Department budget includes \$10,000 for the Senior Home Safety program to expand the number of platform licenses.	page 84
Feasibility Study of an Intergenerational Health and Wellness Center in support of the Resolution number 20181018-041	Seniors and pre-seniors are the fastest growing demographic in Austin according to the city demographer. The City of Austin must better prepare for the growing population of seniors. The Commission supports a feasibility study for the implementation of an Intergenerational Day Center that would provide things like a wellness clinic, wraparound services for seniors, and a social adult day center and child care services.	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health will reallocate existing funding of \$50,000 for a feasibility study of an Intergenerational Health and Wellness Center in support of Resolution 20181018-041.	page 81
Expanding Access to Recreational, Cultural, Educational and Social Programs	As we age, our social lives are impacted by a decreasing social circle, mobility issues and health conditions. Social isolation is considered a significant public health issue. The Commission recommends the City increase the efficiency and equity across recreational, educational, cultural, and social activities for seniors and Austin residents of all ages.	Austin Pubic Library Austin Parks and Recreation Department	The FY 2019-20 Austin Public Library budget includes funding for new educational programming to implement the Age-Friendly Implementation Plan. The FY 2019-20 PARD budget expands recreational programming opportunities to seniors in Far North and Far South Austin.	page 84

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Commission on Seniors

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Recommendations to Support Increased Transparency and Accountability in City Programs and Services*	The member commissions of Joint Inclusion have determined that the current budget process is neither sufficiently equitable nor transparent. The JIC passed a recommendation (Recommendation Number 20190227-04b) that the Strategic Direction 2023 indicators ‘Equity of City programs and resource allocation’ and ‘Transparency and ethical practices’ be added to City Council’s top priority indicators.	Equity Office	A standard best practice for advancing racial equity work is the collection and analysis of data dis-aggregated by race and ethnicity. Without consistent collection of data we are unable to truly measure outcomes and progress in working on City programs and services. The Equity Office will partner with the Office of Performance Management to ensure performance measures for SD2023 are disaggregated by demographics.	
Quality of Life Study for Austinites with Disabilities*	In order to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, Austin must better understand the experience of these individuals and how intersections between ability, race, ethnicity, and other demographics impact those experiences. The Commissions recommends allocating \$200,000 to conduct a study to evaluate the quality of life of Austin’s disability community in collaboration with qualified community partners.	Management Services	In the FY 2019-20 budget, \$200,000 is added in one-time funds for contracting with a third-party to conduct a quality-of life study focusing on Austinite’s with disabilities.	page 143
Prioritizing Services to the Most Vulnerable in Austin*	As potential cuts to city services are considered, the Commission recommends prioritizing the maintenance and expansion of services for the most vulnerable residents of Austin. Access to basic needs including health care, healthy and culturally appropriate food, affordable housing and emergency services should not be cut, but instead be increased as much as possible for the most vulnerable in Austin.	Management Services	The FY 2019-20 budget continues to invest heavily in Council’s priority indicators – most notably housing, homelessness, and health – and in so doing made significant inroads towards aligning the City’s resources with the vision and values Council set forth in Strategic Direction 2023.	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Commission on Seniors

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
<p>Recommendation 20190514-4C: City of Austin Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget</p>	<p>Community Development Commission’s mission is to advise the council in the development and implementation of programs designed to serve the poor and the community at large. Funding for non-construction related development costs and monitoring for compliance are essential for our much need affordable housing development. The Commission recommends that the City explore best practices and implementation of fees for administering application review, monitoring obligations and compliance by affordable housing developers and those seeking entitlements, grants, loans or exemptions under affordable housing programs, and provide increased transparency in the process.</p>	<p>Neighborhood Housing and Community Development</p>	<p>The department has identified \$150K in dedicated funding for third party contractors to monitor its grants and loans portfolio. In addition, the department will be working with external and internal parties to develop a fee structure based on best practices that can increase resources for long-term compliance, fiscal accountability and transparency of the department’s programs. NHCD has included in its proposed FY 2019-20 budget a new position that will be dedicated to reinforcing compliance programs, specifically strengthening the department’s quality assurance activities.</p>	

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
City Website Update	The City website has more than 11,000 pages of content and 10,000 PDF's. User testing indicates current content is too lengthy and complex. The Community Technology and Communications Commission recommends allocating funding to test out systems and architecture of a new Austin Public Health Department website.	Communication Technology Management	CTM agrees with the Commission that usability is critical in the redesign of the City's website; however, CTM has used other methods and resources than those recommended by the Commission to perform user testing. Usability testing will continue to occur in FY 2019-20 when new pieces of digital architecture and sub-sites are stood up, and as translations of the website content into Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic become available.	
Wi-Fi Hotspot Lending Program with Austin Public Library	There are many Austinites who lack internet connectivity, despite the growing need for and benefit of internet access. The Commission recommends that the Austin City Council allocate \$25,000 in matching funds for a pilot Wi-Fi lending program to increase the access and availability of their device checkout program at select branches in FY 20 managed by the Austin Public Library Department.	Austin Public Library	The Austin Public Library Department is including a total of \$54,000 to lend Wi-Fi hotspots to customers in neighborhoods with the greatest need of Internet access. This represents an increase of \$25,000 from the prior year.	page 152
Grant for Technology Opportunities Program Capacity Funding	Some zip codes in Austin have up to 32% of the population without home internet access. Grant for Technology Opportunities Program receives over \$600,000 in funding requests annually, but only has an annual budget of \$200,000 to award to local non-profits. The Commission recommends an increase to the GTOP's current annual budget of \$200,000 up to \$400,000.	Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs	The Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) is directed at improving the community's ability to fully participate in the digital society. Total funding of \$400,000 is included in the FY 2019-20 budget, an increase of \$200,000, to improve digital equity and enable capacity building for technology device awards, training opportunities, and access to the internet for community non-profits and their clients.	page 60



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Recommendation for FY20 Budget Funding for the Downtown Austin Community Court	Due to case management capacity, since FY 2017, the DACC has maintained a waitlist for individuals seeking case management services, which currently includes 63 individuals. The Board recommends allocating funds and explore all available means to fund solutions to address homelessness as well as supports the DACC'S request for additional funds to increase its case management capacity and housing resources to continue providing needed services to its clients.	Downtown Austin Community Court	\$723,000 is included in DACC's budget to provide intensive case management services and an additional \$134,000 received through the Emergency Solutions Grant program to provide case management and financial assistance. Note, a more complete response to the funding included in the FY 2019-20 budget to address homelessness can be found on pages 54-60.	pages 54-60



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Early Childhood Council

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Additional early childhood staff position	Austin Public Health currently has only two staff persons (one full-time, one temporary) dedicated to working on early childhood issues and they do not have the capacity to efficiently and effectively complete current projects and work. The recommendation is for City Council to allocate funding to hire an additional full-time regular staff person at APH to work on Early Childhood issues.	Austin Public Health	No funding source has been identified for one full-time regular staff. Additional funding would be needed.	
Maintain or increase Continuity of Child Care Services program funding	Childcare services are essential for low-income, working families in Travis County. The Commission recommends maintaining current funding levels or increase funding for Continuity of Child Care Services Program. Program funds have been expended every year in existence with an ongoing waitlist for services (782 children as of 4/29/19).	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health currently allocates \$534,831 to the Continuity of Care Child Care Services program.	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Early Childhood Council

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Start-up funding for up to eight 3-year-old pre-kindergarten classes in area public schools	Educators, parents, and others in the community have raised repeated concerns about inequity of opportunity in access to quality early education for children whose families have low incomes and for children of color. The Early Childhood Council supports the City’s inclusion of \$128,000 in the COA FY2020 budget to provide area school districts start-up costs to open 8 new Pre-K classrooms in the City of Austin.	Austin Public Health	In partnership with area school districts and to leverage state funding, the budget includes \$128,000 for start-up costs for new pre-K classes.	page 80
Budgetary Actions Relating to the Recommendations of the High Quality Child Care and Pre-K3 Work Group	There is not enough affordable, high quality child care and early education to meet the needs of families in Austin. The Commission recommends that City Council include in the 2020 budget any expenditures necessary to support implementation of the remaining recommendations from the High Quality Child Care and Pre-K3 Report (per Council Resolution 20190411-020).	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health submitted a staff response to Council Resolution 20190411-020 that included a report from TXP, Inc. (Childcare and Economic Development in Austin). Staff identified the following TXP, Inc. report recommendations as priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidize cost of child care for graduates of City of Austin-funded job training programs, at approximately \$1.5 million annually. • Expand City staff capacity on Early Childhood 	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Multi-lingual Sickle Cell Services	Sickle Cell Disease is a genetic disorder and has no cure. Many with sickle cell trait are unaware they are carriers. All newborns are tested for it in Texas. Our commission recommends that the City fund \$250,000 to provide free sickle cell trait testing, and educate the general public about Sickle Cell Disease and sickle cell trait.	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health anticipates allocating \$573,517 for three sickle cell agreements.	page 81
Park Lighting in District 2 / Southeast Austin	Unlit parks limit health, recreation, and safety. Parks in district 2 that received new lighting have seen crime drop as much as 30%. The Commission recommends a reallocation and reprioritization of funds, whether from safety, health or environmental resources, to match at least \$115,000 of what is currently allocated from Austin Energy, to ensure that all District 2 parks that need lighting receive at least four lights.	Austin Parks and Recreation	The Parks and Recreation Department continues to install park security lighting that was first approved by Council in FY 2016-17. By the end of FY 2018-19, the three years of funding will have supported installation of 55 lights in 30 parks. Looking ahead, at least 40 additional lights in 10 identified parks within District 2 will be installed by the end of FY 2021-22. The total expenditures to date are nearly \$296,000 and planned spending of \$115,000 is included in the FY 2019-20 budget.	page 83
De-escalation and wellness training for seasoned police officers 5+ years in the industry	There is a growing concern in the community about the racial disparities in arrests, use of force in police-community interactions, and the need for tools, resources, and support for officers in de-escalation and overall wellness. The Commission recommends reallocating APD's resources to cover training provided by an expert community partner to address de-escalation and wellness.	Austin Police Department	Building off a one-time \$10,000 investment in the previous year to provide fair and impartial policing, de-escalation, and disability awareness training for APD officers, \$50,000 in ongoing training funds are included in the budget.	page 117

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
City of Austin’s “Resilient Dove Springs” Commitment	Certain areas of Austin are disproportionately impacted by environmental stressors like flooding, wildfires, heat stress, and drought. The Commission recommends that departments tied to the “Resilient Dove Springs Commitment” have the resources to fully engage the community for an equitable vision of land management and stewardship.	Office of Sustainability Watershed Protection Public Works Austin Parks and Recreation	The Office of Sustainability, Public Works, and Watershed Protection will continue their commitment to the “Resilient Dove Springs” initiative in FY 2019-20 and will continue partnering to identify project opportunities and funding priorities for other climate-focused projects, such as a new tree planting carbon offset initiative that is underway.	page 80
Increased funding for Quality of Life Mini-grants	Quality of Life Commissions have suffered a decreasing and unreliable budget to make meaningful recommendations and “move the dial” on the various quality of life initiatives and issues that we are asked to address by both community members and the City of Austin. The Commission recommend reallocating resources to increase the mini-grant fund for Quality of Life Commissions to \$250,000.	Equity Office Economic Development Department	Funding of \$250,000 is included in the FY 2019-20 budget, which is a \$175,000 increase from the prior year, for the Equity Office to fund and administer projects focused on eliminating structural barriers and improving the quality of life for Austin’s most vulnerable populations.	page 152
Early intervention for substance abuse - Sobering Center	Intoxicated individuals are traditionally taken to jails or emergency rooms, which are very costly and damaging in the long term due to creating a criminal record, particularly for the Latino community. The Commission recommends increasing the funding of a sobering center by \$210,000 to improve the ability to identify cases where early intervention with substance abuse could reduce the cost of managing this issue.	Austin Public Health	The Sobering Center is a joint undertaking with the City of Austin and Travis County to provide a safe environment for publicly intoxicated individuals to sober up and, when appropriate, initiate recovery. As of July 2019, 1,875 patients have been served by this facility. The total budget needed for FY 2019-20 to maintain service levels for the Center’s fourth year is \$1.8 million.	page 82

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Collecting and analyzing demographic data to support implementation of annual equity action plans	Without sufficient data, we are unable to determine who is most impacted by the issues facing our community. The Hispanic Quality of Life Commission recommends all City departments begin to capture and analyze comprehensive demographic data, including race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, age, ability, sexual orientation, primary language, and veteran status. This data will help to support implementation of annual equity action plans.	Equity Office	A standard best practice for advancing equity work is the collection and analysis of data dis-aggregated demographics. Without consistent collection of data we are unable to truly measure outcomes and progress in working on City programs and services. The Equity Office will partner with the Office of Performance Management to ensure performance measures for SD2023 are disaggregated by demographics.	
Funding for “Viva la Vida” Festival	Even though Latinos make up more than 37% of Austin’s population, our cultural arts are not as visible or accessible to the public as they should be. The Commission recommends funding the Viva la Vida Celebration, Festival and Parade, for the next four years (2019-2022) at 25,000 per year for four years, totalling \$100,000, to ensure the festival — a 35 year old tradition—for the Austin community.	Equity Office Economic Development	<p>The Equity Office supports that this parade should be held, there is a tremendous need for cultural celebration of communities of color to ensure all Austinites feel valued within the community. The City has an established process for cultural heritage and cultural arts events via the Economic Development Department and believe this parade would be an eligible candidate for this funding.</p> <p>Information for festival funding can be found at austintexas.gov/department/cultural-heritage-festivals-program</p> <p>In addition, the Equity Office would like to hear from applicants about potential barriers or gaps in the application process.</p>	page 151

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Immigrant Legal Services*	As immigrants continue to move into our community, they require support to navigate the complex legal system. We recommend the City allocate or reallocate \$200,000 to immigration legal services providers to help low income residents facing deportation, including asylum seekers, navigate the complex legal system, ensuring they receive adequate and equitable treatment.	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health will allocate nearly \$315,000 for immigrant legal services. In addition to legal assistance, this funding supports education about eligible benefits for immigrants throughout the community.	page 81
After-school STEM and photography programs for youth of color at the Carver Library	Latino and African-American youth have inadequate access to math and science enrichment and there exists a shortage of experienced math and science teachers at schools that serve students of color. The Commission recommends \$7,000 be allocated for an after-school program at the Carver Library/Museum to provide STEM and photography programs for youth of color.	Austin Public Health Austin Parks and Recreation Department	Austin Public Health's STEM job training contract is increasing by \$200,000 for a total of \$381,000. In addition to APH funding, \$11,400 is included to expand STEM afterschool programming offered by PARD.	page 83
After school STEAM and digital media programming for young Latinas	Girls and women of color face discrimination and exclusivity in STEM fields. The Commission recommends that \$120,000 be allocated toward education and development for women of color by building interest in computer science and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) careers.	Austin Public Health Austin Parks and Recreation Department	Austin Public Health's STEM job training contract is increasing by \$200,000 for a total of \$381,000. In addition to APH funding, \$11,400 is included to expand STEM afterschool programming offered by PARD.	page 83

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Human Rights Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Investment in Diversion Programs (Public Safety)	There is an issue of over-policing and criminalization of non-criminal conduct and low level status offenses, particularly in minority communities and communities of color. The Commission recommends a refocus from traditional policing and criminalization toward a greater reliance on diversionary, preventive, and rehabilitation programs.	Austin Police Department	Building off a one-time \$10,000 investment in the previous year to provide fair and impartial policing, de-escalation, and disability awareness training for APD officers, \$50,000 in ongoing training funds are included in the budget.	page 117
Increase Funding for the Equity Office	The Equity Office is underfunded. The Commission recommends funding for the Equity Office to have adequate resources to implement key initiatives and ensure efficacy of programs implemented by the Chief Equity Officer, including but not limited to staffing, toolkits, and monitoring and oversight of program effectiveness.	Equity Office	The Equity Office was created in 2016 to focus on advancing equity in all aspects of City operations. The FY 2019-20 budget includes \$1.4 million and six positions to carry out this mission. One new Business Process Specialist is being added this year to serve the immigrant community through policy and services along with funding of \$100,000 included in the aforementioned total.	page 141
Transportation	There is a lack of safe, affordable transportation options, including adequate and ADA compliant public transportation, and mobility infrastructure in low income areas. The Commission recommends implementing actions based on prior studies in areas of the City that require improvement of infrastructure, and prioritize planning for infrastructure, identifying areas without Complete Streets (as defined by Smart Growth America), adequate sidewalks, and access for people with disabilities.	Austin Transportation Department Public Works	Through its capital program, ATD seeks to meet the safety and multimodal mobility needs of the community, reduce the impact of traffic congestion, and provide more transportation choices. Additionally, PWD's capital program connects Austin with safe and reliable infrastructure through street, bridge, and structure improvements; sidewalk, bikeway, and urban trail reconstruction and rehabilitations; and the Safe Routes to School Program. Both departments are continuing their work on 2016 Mobility Bond projects that focus on local, regional, or corridor mobility programs.	page 86

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Human Rights Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Very Low Income/Affordable Housing	Due in part to displacement in traditionally underserved communities, Austin lacks sufficient affordable housing for the poor and working class, including but not limited to residents earning at or below minimum wage and residents on a fixed income. The Commission recommends that the floor for rental housing begin at minimum wage to help stem the tide of displacement of citizens.	Neighborhood Housing and Community Development	NHCD will be prioritizing FY 2019-20 funding in the Housing Trust Fund and allocated funding from the Affordable Housing Bond to the creation and preservation of deeply subsidized units affordable for families at 30 percent Median Family Income (MFI) (\$23,250 for a family of 3). NHCD also has included a performance measure for the creation of units available for households at 20 percent MFI (\$15,500 for a family of 3).	
Health Care and Health Equity	A concern among our community members is the low level of direct spending on health care services allocated in the Public Health budget. The Commission recommends that the \$1.3 million in new funding for public health initiatives set out in City of Austin FY 2018 budget is used solely for the purposes of direct care.	Austin Public Health	The City of Austin does not fund direct health care services because that falls under the authority of Central Health (CommUnity Care Clinics, hospitals, etc.) Chapter 281 of the Health and Safety Code and Article IV, Sections 4 and 9 state the City is prohibited from issuing bonds or levying taxes for hospital purposes, or from providing healthcare services to indigent and needy persons residing in Travis County, because the City relinquished its ability to do so when a hospital district was created in 2004.	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Joint Inclusion Committee

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Support for requests made by Joint Inclusion Committee member commissions to increase resources for mental health services, education and outreach and for counseling services.	In both the current and recent budget cycles member commissions of the Joint Inclusion Committee have made recommendations for funding mental health services, education, outreach and counseling targeted to the communities they represent. JIC supports the requests made by member commissions to increase resources for mental health services, education and outreach and for counseling services.	Austin Public Health	In FY 2019-20, APH includes a total of \$5.3 million for mental health services, with an additional \$200,000 to build mental health service provider capacity to meet specific linguistic and cultural needs of the Asian Pacific - Islander community and to expand access to affirming mental health therapy for the LGBTQIA+ community.	page 82
Create an Immigrant Affairs Office with at least one full time staff person*	Immigrant and refugee communities are underrepresented in policy and budget discussions in Austin. We recommend that the City create an Immigrant Affairs Office, with at least one full-time staff member. This office would act as a central location for information about city services and programs that are available to immigrants.	Equity Office	The Equity Office was created in 2016 to focus on advancing equity in all aspects of City operations. The FY 2019-20 budget includes \$1.4 million and six positions to carry out this mission. One new position is being added this year to serve as the single point of contact for the immigrant community.	page 141
Quality of Life Study for Austinites with Disabilities*	In order to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, Austin must better understand the experience of these individuals and how intersections between ability, race, ethnicity, and other demographics impact those experiences. The Commissions recommends allocating \$200,000 to conduct a study to evaluate the quality of life of Austin's disability community in collaboration with qualified community partners.	Management Services	In the FY 2019-20 budget, \$200,000 is added in one-time funds for contracting with a third-party to conduct a quality-of life study focusing on Austinite's with disabilities.	page 143

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Joint Inclusion Committee

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Austin Adoption of Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*	The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (“CEDAW”) referenced in Resolution No. 20170323-054, has yet to be adopted by the City. The Commission urges the adoption of an ordinance implementing CEDAW principles into the Code of the City of Austin and requests funding of \$46,965 - \$117,413 to implement CEDAW program and policy reforms.	Equity Office	The Equity Office supports the principles of not discriminating against women. This recommendation would require further Council action to be implemented.	
Recommendations to Support Increased Transparency and Accountability in City Programs and Services*	The member commissions of Joint Inclusion have determined that the current budget process is neither sufficiently equitable nor transparent. The JIC passed a recommendation (Recommendation Number 20190227-04b) that the Strategic Direction 2023 indicators ‘Equity of City programs and resource allocation’ and ‘Transparency and ethical practices’ be added to City Council’s top priority indicators.	Equity Office	A standard best practice for advancing racial equity work is the collection and analysis of data dis-aggregated by race and ethnicity. Without consistent collection of data we are unable to truly measure outcomes and progress in working on City programs and services. The Equity Office will partner with the Office of Performance Management to ensure performance measures for SD2023 are disaggregated by demographics.	
Prioritizing Services to the Most Vulnerable in Austin*	As potential cuts to city services are considered, the Commission recommends prioritizing the maintenance and expansion of services for the most vulnerable residents of Austin. Access to basic needs including health care, healthy and culturally appropriate food, affordable housing and emergency services should not be cut, but instead be increased as much as possible for the most vulnerable in Austin.	Management Services	The FY 2019-20 budget continues to invest heavily in Council’s priority indicators – most notably housing, homelessness, and health – and in so doing made significant inroads towards aligning the City’s resources with the vision and values Council set forth in <i>Strategic Direction 2023</i> .	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Joint Sustainability Committee

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Enforcing Existing Regulations	A lack of sufficient City staff is resulting in failure to enforce existing regulations that would result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved resiliency to climate change. The Commission recommends prioritizing funding for DSD staffing to ensure full compliance with all existing city regulations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve resilience to climate change.	Development Services	In FY19, DSD added 52 new full time personnel with eight directly linked to environmental control work and urban forest health. Also, seven new full-time residential inspectors and seven new full-time commercial inspectors were added in FY19 with one set of their job duties including inspecting energy standards of buildings. DSD reviews and inspects buildings for compliance with the International Energy Conservation code utilizing current commercial plan review, commercial inspections, and residential inspections staffing.	
Equity and Sustainability	Climate change is exacerbating inequality. It is essential that the Office of Sustainability and the Equity Office are working together. Because of our recognition that climate change disparately impacts minority, low-income, and other vulnerable populations, we recommend allocating funding to ensure effective staff efforts and substantive collaboration between the Equity and Sustainability Offices.	Office of Sustainability	The Office of Sustainability has completed an Equity Assessment and is working directly with the Equity Office to create an Equity Action Plan. Equity will also be a major focus in the upcoming revision of the Community Climate Plan.	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Joint Sustainability Committee

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Parks to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change	Parks can and should be used to reduce air pollution, sequester carbon, mitigate the heat island effect, reduce flooding, and create wildlife habitat, in order to improve public health. The Committee recommends funding and continued support for collaboration opportunities among PARD, WPD, and the Office of Sustainability to create pilot projects focused on climate mitigation and adaptation goals	Office of Sustainability	A new tree planting carbon offset initiative is underway through a coordinated effort between the Office of Sustainability, Parks and Recreation, and Watershed Protection that will address many of the intentions of this recommendation.	
Sustainability and Climate Liaisons	Numerous decisions in every city department affect climate change and climate resilience. Recognizing current budget challenges and the urgent need for climate action, the Committee recommends funding and/or formalizing positions as sustainability and climate liaisons to coordinate among departments, other local and regional climate mitigation stakeholders, and in alignment with the leadership of the Office of Sustainability.	Office of Sustainability	Office of Sustainability accomplishes this recommendation through a continued focus on collaboration with other City Department liaisons on climate-related initiatives.	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Quality of Life Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Increasing Mental Health Resources for LGBTQIA+ Population	Austin currently invests \$0 in LGBTQIA+ focused mental health services. The Commission recommends funding \$100,000 annually to support the stability and growth of organizations and businesses who focus on LGBTQIA+ individuals through existing services for mental health, programs to increase the number of competent mental health care providers, and projects that would expand access to affirming mental health therapy.	Austin Public Health	In FY 2019-20, APH includes a total of \$5.3 million for mental health services, with an additional \$200,000 to build mental health service provider capacity to meet specific linguistic and cultural needs of the Asian Pacific-Islander community and to expand access to affirming mental health therapy for the LGBTQIA+ community.	page 82
Creating LGBTQIA+ Health Equity	There is no dedicated position within Austin Public Health's Health Equity Unit (HEU) to specifically address growing health disparities and inequities within Austin's LGBTQIA+ population. The Commission recommends funding an additional Program Coordinator position within the HEU to address disparities within this community such as suicide, homelessness, HIV/STDs, mental health issues, and others.	Austin Public Health	Austin Public Health recently filled a Public Health Educator position to lead programmatic efforts for the LGBTQIA+ community and other disparate populations.	page 81
Celebrating Austin's Black LGBTQIA Community	Queer/Trans People of Color who live in Austin face compounded challenges because of their intersectional identities of race, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity. The Commission recommends that VISIT AUSTIN underwrites the production and free distribution of a special Austin issue of THE TENTH, the national magazine for Black and QTPOC culture, to promote QTPOC life and cultural opportunities in Austin.	Austin Convention Center	Visit Austin currently markets locally and beyond that Austin is a vibrant QTPOC community and an inclusive destination. Since Visit Austin's marketing budget is limited, we would request that Visit Austin be included in an upcoming Commission meeting to present and discuss those marketing efforts to better inform/support any direction for additional marketing recommendations.	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Quality of Life Advisory Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
QTPOC ART FUNDING	Queer/Trans People of Color who live in Austin face compounded challenges because of their intersectional identities of race, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity. The Commission recommends allocating \$25,000 for a coalition of art organizations that work specifically with QTPOC to explore Austin LGBTQIA+ People of Color identities through art and culture, historical disparity, and education.	Economic Development Department Equity Office	The City has an established process for cultural arts funding via the Economic Development Department. Information for Cultural Arts funding can be found at austintexas.gov/cultural-funding In addition, the Equity Office would like to hear from applicants about potential barriers or gaps in the application process.	page 151
Mental Health Response Team	The LGBTQIA+ community lacks mental health resources. Skillfully trained responders should work in coordination with law enforcement agencies and should replace a “police first” response to mental health emergencies. The Commission recommends a reduction of the use of force by increasing advanced training for certification as mental health officers in APD, mandatory officer training on serving the LGBTQIA+ community, collaboration with expert mental health community providers, and related current city service providers.	Austin Police Department	The Austin Police Department continues to concentrate on training and awareness when encountering individuals who may be experiencing a mental health crisis. Included in FY 2019-20 is \$147,000 to increase the number of mental health stipends by 70 for sworn police officers, bringing the total funding in excess of \$487,000 and the total number of stipends to 232.	page 113

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Improving Accessibility at City Hall	Several physical barriers at the City Hall building exist that prevent full and equal access by citizens and staff members with physical disabilities. The Commission recommends adding an automatic door button on the interior and exterior of the Boards and Commissions Room, first floor work rooms, and the entrances to staff and representative offices on higher floors.	Building Services Department	Building Services strives to reduce and eliminate physical barriers to access whenever possible. However, in this case, BSD does not support this recommendation for the following reasons: City Hall doors already meet ADA standards; both Council Chambers and the Boards and Commissions room doors are generally propped open at the start of meetings to help all attendees enter the rooms in a timely manner. Additionally, building staff are available to assist with any access issues. Installing automated hardware on these doors would be cost prohibitive due to their proximity to suitable power sources, current door configuration and additional maintenance costs. All doors leading to employee work areas have secure access devices. Installing automatic openers would create conflicts with the security system. Visitors currently must be escorted into these areas and will have assistance accessing these doors whenever needed.	
City Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows the unemployment rate for people with disabilities was about two times higher than that for people without disabilities in 2018. The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities (MCPD) recommends creating an employment liaison position to focus on inclusive job opportunities for people with disabilities.	Human Resources Department	The FY 2019-20 budget includes funding for a new position, which will focus on creating inclusive job opportunities for people with disabilities.	page 141

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Public Safety Budget Recommendations for Austinites with Disabilities	According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 12% of Austin's non-institutionalized civilian population is made up of individuals with disabilities. The Commission recommends the City of Austin fully fund training relevant to the disability community including mandatory disability awareness training for APD officers, victim services professionals, and first responders working with survivors of sexual violence.	Austin Police Department	Building off a one-time \$10,000 investment in the previous year to provide fair and impartial policing, de-escalation, and disability awareness training for APD officers, \$50,000 in ongoing training funds are included in the budget.	page 117
Create a gender-neutral, wheelchair-accessible restroom with an adult-sized changing table at Zilker Park	There are no clean, accessible public restrooms in Austin that provide adequate space and privacy for teens and adults with disabilities who require a caregiver to assist in changing adult diapers or other incontinent supplies. The Commission recommends creating a single-stall, gender-neutral, accessible restroom with an adult-sized changing table at Zilker Park or a similar location.	Austin Parks and Recreation	PARD acknowledges that an additional need that has yet to be met in our park system are adult-sized changing tables to accommodate adults with disabilities who require assistance from a caretaker. Currently, PARD does not have adult-sized changing tables in our parks or facilities; however, the Department is committed to accessibility and inclusion at all new restroom facilities and will evaluate recommendations to install changing tables suitable for adults where possible.	
Quality of Life Study for Austinites with Disabilities*	In order to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, Austin must better understand the experience of these individuals and how intersections between ability, race, ethnicity, and other demographics impact those experiences. The Commissions recommends allocating \$200,000 to conduct a study to evaluate the quality of life of Austin's disability community in collaboration with qualified community partners.	Management Services	In the FY 2019-20 budget, \$200,000 is added in one-time funds for contracting with a third-party to conduct a quality-of life study focusing on Austinite's with disabilities.	page 143

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
More Parks Department programming for children and adults with intellectual disabilities	Austin has limited access to parks programming for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The Commission recommends allocating funding to increase the number of slots available for children with disabilities in seasonal camps and after-school programming, and for adults with disabilities in recreational programming, including day habilitation.	Austin Parks and Recreation	The Parks and Recreation Department currently provides programming designed for adults and youth with intellectual disabilities. With total funding of \$1.7 million, an increase of \$575,000 for FY 2019-20, PARD is expanding this programming for both adults and youths with intellectual disabilities, which would add one Adult DAY-HAB location and expand inclusion services for youth and teens with intellectual disabilities at afterschool and camp programs at current Parks and Recreation locations.	page 83

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Parks and Recreation Board

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
PARB Recommendation	There have been an increased level of complaints about poor behavior relating to dog owners and other users of parks. The Board recommends support of the department-wide cost drivers totaling \$2,363,000, as well as providing financial support that allows the department to move towards meeting best practices for park lighting and park rangers staffing for cities of similar size to Austin.	Austin Parks and Recreation	The following base cost drivers are currently included in the FY20 Proposed Budget: Dove Springs Recreation Center Expansion, Montopolis Recreation Center Renovation, Recycling Initiative, and contractuels/ commodities increases in support of operations and maintenance.	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Public Safety Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Fire - Records Management System Replacement (\$250,000)	The Fire Department records management system is outdated and is not ideally compatible with the newer communications and records system purchased by EMS. The Commission recommends allocating \$250,000 toward replacement of the current AFD records management system.	Austin Fire Department	The FY 2019-20 budget includes \$232,000 to upgrade the AFD's records management system to allow for better management of all incident reports and a majority of AFD's performance measure data.	page 118
Adopt and Fully Fund Implementation of the WUI Code (Wildfire Protection)	Due to the impact of climate change and development patterns, Central Texas - but especially Council District 6, 8 and 10 - face a growing threat of catastrophic wildfire that could threaten life and property. The Commission urges Council to officially adopt the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code this June and to commit to protecting allocations for implementation in any future budget.	Austin Fire Department	AFD is currently working with stakeholders to develop a list of the resources required to implement the various facets of the WUI code. Final adoption of the WUI code is anticipated to be later in 2019.	
AFD - Decontamination (Cancer Prevention Project): \$280,000	AFD needs additional funding to continue a project focused on decontaminating the uniform, gear, and materials of emergency responders. This is considered critical to abating the impact of toxic materials accrued while fighting fires. It is recommended that \$280,000 be allocated in the 2020 budget to allow AFD to continue with its decontamination protocol.	Austin Fire Department	Decontaminating uniforms, gear, and materials of emergency responders is considered critical to abating the impact of toxic materials accumulated while fighting fires. The Austin Fire Department currently replaces personal protective equipment and uniforms on a 7-year cycle. Included in FY 2019-20 is \$611,000, an increase of \$136,000, to move to a 5-year replacement cycle.	page 115

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Public Safety Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Additional HOST team allocation	For several years, the commission has heard testimony from the public and first responders as to the severity of issues related to homelessness within the city. The issue is spreading and the Commission recommends the addition of one new HOST team in the 2020 budget.	Emergency Medical Services Austin Police Department Downtown Community Court	\$2.3 million for the Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST), a cross-departmental initiative that offers a proactive approach to addressing peoples' needs by referring them to appropriate resources before they reach a state of crisis, thereby reducing arrests, emergency room visits, and admissions to emergency psychiatric facilities. This amount includes funding for two police officers, two clinical specialists and two administrative support positions in the Emergency Medical Services Department, six case managers in Downtown Austin Community Court, and a contract with Integral Care to perform outreach and connection to services.	page 57
Increasing Police Academy Cadet Pay	There is substantial concern that APD has such difficulty meeting its recruiting goals. The salary for cadets is currently \$40,000 annually, which is too low to be competitive. The Commission recommends increasing cadet pay to \$50,000 annually.	Austin Police Department	Based on a market study by Human Resources, APD's cadet salary should be increased from \$40,000 to \$50,000. Cadet pay was last increased in 2013. This increase is necessary to remain competitive in the attraction and recruitment of Police Cadets. APD will reallocate funding to accomplish this in FY 2019-20.	
EMS - New Paramedic Response Unit (\$442,000)	Austin/Travis County EMS is struggling to meet with increased demand due to increased population and spreading development within Travis County. The Commissioner recommends allocating \$442,000 toward purchasing and manning a new Paramedic Response Unit that would greatly improve the availability and flexibility of integral patient care.	Emergency Medical Services	EMS will continue to explore opportunities to use existing resources, however, additional resources are needed to fully implement this recommendation at this time.	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Public Safety Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Continuation of Emergency Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (EMCOT) - \$1.1 million	The EMCOT teams have proven to be invaluable to EMS and other first responders in dealing with citizens experiencing a mental health crisis. Commissioners unanimously support allocating \$1.1 million in the 2019-2020 budget for the continued use of the EMCOT team model. Failure to continue the service would jeopardize the health and welfare of citizens in an emotional crisis.	Municipal Court	\$1.1 million for Integral Care’s Expanded Mobile Crisis Outreach Team, which aims to divert individuals from jail bookings and emergency department visits.	page 57

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

South Central Waterfront Advisory Board

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
<p>Establish dedicated staff position with administrative budget to oversee implementation of the South Central Waterfront Plan.</p>	<p>The 2016 South Central Waterfront Vision Framework Plan (SCW Plan) sets a framework for the City to partner with private properties which chose to redevelop over the next 20 years. The Commission recommends having a designated position to ensure internal City staff continuity, authority, and coordination to deliver the SCW Plan’s community benefits.</p>	<p>Planning and Zoning</p>	<p>Since the inception of the SCW Plan, the Planning and Zoning Department (PAZ) has dedicated up to four staff members to manage the SCW Plan through its stages of completion and implementation, including a project lead who has managed the project since 2016. Through the annual approval of the City budget, PAZ has continued to sustain the production of deliverables to implement the plan, which will continue in FY 2019-20.</p>	
<p>Consultant services to complete implementation tools, including financial analysis, project costs, regulatory requirements, and district management, to implement the 2016 South Central Waterfront Vision Framework Plan.</p>	<p>Community benefits are lacking during Austin's south shore redevelopment, including expanded public access to the waterfront and open spaces, green streetscapes and walkable connections, mobility options, and affordable housing opportunities. The Commission recommends implementing the SCW Plan’s financial, regulatory, and district management toolkits.</p>	<p>Planning and Zoning</p>	<p>PAZ is close to executing three contracts for further implementation of the SCW Plan, at a combined cost of \$148,960. To complement these pending contracts, PAZ is working with the Financial Services Department on a 4th contract with a local financial advisor to support the pending work.</p>	

*indicates recommendation was submitted by multiple commissions



FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Zoning and Platting Commission

Title	Recommendation Summary	Department(s)	Department Response	Reference
Draft Recommendation Regarding Affordability and Access To Opportunity	Major recurring concerns include rising household costs, a shrinking supply of affordable housing, and limited tools to create new affordable housing. Rapid development and population growth have increased pressure on transportation infrastructure and the resulting traffic congestion is a growing barrier to accessing economic opportunity. The Commission recommends 11 strategies to bolster resources around affordability and accessibility.	Development Services	Development Services is consistently reviewing and improving all development review and inspections processes, including those related to affordable housing, with additional efficiencies expected to be gained from the move to the new Planning and Development Center. With the introduction of the new Land Development Code, currently undergoing a rewrite, there will be a need to reassess current processes and how to best address the new review and inspection requirements for all types of development.	
		Neighborhood Housing and Community Development	Of the eleven recommendations offered by the Commission, several actions in NHCD's proposed FY19-20 budget are responsive. The department has proposed additional resources that will improve its public facing data sharing and management platforms and services. The department's budget also includes ongoing funding that was realized in FY19, with an additional position dedicated to activities that will streamline services between NHCD and the Development Services Department to address streamlined review processes related to affordable housing. The department has dedicated resources to included \$150K in funding for monitoring activities responsive to the Commission's recommendation.	

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FY 2020 Boards & Commissions Recommendations and Feedback

Zoning and Platting Commission

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Draft Recommendation Regarding Affordability and Access To Opportunity	Major recurring concerns include rising household costs, a shrinking supply of affordable housing, and limited tools to create new affordable housing. Rapid development and population growth have increased pressure on transportation infrastructure and the resulting traffic congestion is a growing barrier to accessing economic opportunity. The Commission recommends 11 strategies to bolster resources around affordability and accessibility.	Planning and Zoning	In May 2018, PAZ sent a memo to Council which related to selecting and developing small area plans in the future, including a recommendation to develop plans along Imagine Austin Centers and Corridors and to prioritize equity.	
		Planning and Zoning	In fall 2016, the East Austin Historic Resource Survey was completed as a response to East Austin’s rapidly changing landscape. Staff believes that the most strategic use of PAZ resources is to hire consultants to engage already-surveyed communities around historic preservation tools—particularly around how historic district designation can help preserve affordable housing, support property owners’ reinvestment in their homes, and achieve other community goals—and to more intensively assist with applications for identified historic districts.	
		Watershed Protection	In FY 2019-20, WPD will work on its department Equity Action Plan, Watershed Projection Master Plan, new Land Development Code, and implementation of Atlas 14 maps. It is difficult to estimate resources at this time.	

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