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## African American Resource Advisory Commission

City Council Presentation December 9, 2010

## **Overview of Commission**

- When: June 2006
- Why: Created out of African American Quality of Life Initiative
- **Purpose:** The commission shall advise the city council on issues relating to the quality of life for the City's African American community and shall recommend programs designed to alleviate any inequities that may confront African Americans in social, economic, and vocational pursuits.

# Late Backup

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## **Community Concerns**

- Public Safety Relations
- NAACP Scorecard
- Gentrification
- Decreasing African American Population
- Lack of African American-owned Businesses



- Demographic Information
  Demographer study of 2004
- Mid-Town
  - Critical incident

## **Group Solutions Report**

Process:

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 In 2005, Group Solutions was hired by the City to conduct a series of forums to gather feedback for the creation of recommendations on what the City could do to improve the quality of life for African Americans.

 At the forums, two (2) questions were asked:
 Do Afric an Americans experience challenges different from others in Austin? (YES)

•W hat can local government do to retain & attract African Americans so that Austin maintains a diverse economy & culture?

- Results:
  - In May 2005, Group Solutions presented 35 recommendations organized into five (5) categories.

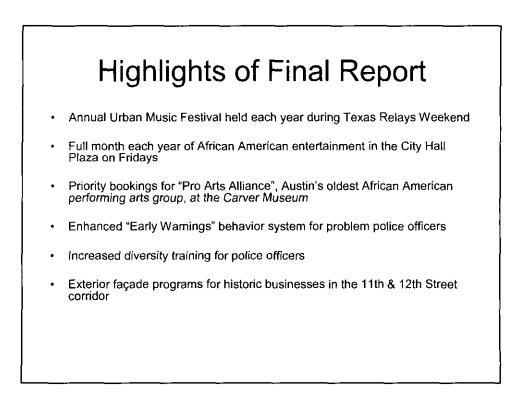


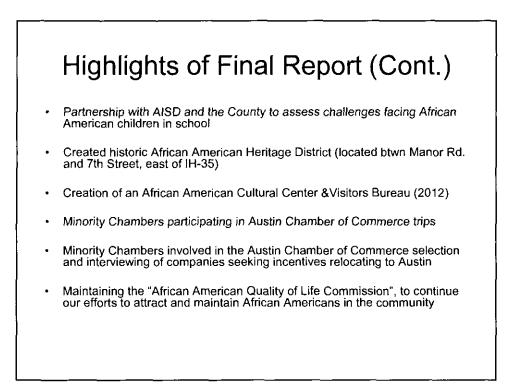
- Adopted by City Council in October 2005
- Organized 56 recommendations into 6 categories\*:
  - Arts, Culture & Entertainment
  - Business & Economic Development
  - Employment & Education
  - Health
  - Neighborhood Sustainability
  - Police & Safety

· Commitment by City to address all recommendations within two-year timeframe

- Final report presented to Council in April 2008
  - Full report can be found on City website

\*Note: Community Stakeholders added 21 recommendations and 1 additional category to Group Solutions' initial report.





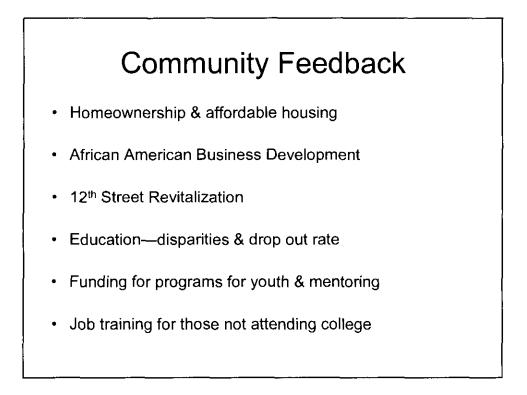
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#### **Commission Activities**

- · Four Resolutions and one support letter
- Two Community Forums, three Commission retreats, 55 total Commission meetings held
- Creation of the African American Cultural Heritage Facility and the Historic District
- · Better representation of African Americans in City contracting
- · Improved relationship with minority Chambers
- Received presentations on a variety of topics including department budgets, programs for youth, infrastructure, bond elections, police diversity training, "No Refusal" blood draws, housing programs, Meet and Confer process, Comprehensive Plan outreach, and Small Business Development Program

Population Profile Poin Census 2000 Data, 2010 Estimates a with Special Focus on the City of Austin	ind 2009 Ameri			Information
Data IlemSource	2000	2009/2010	Change	Notes
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Population Profile Points Page Two Census 2000 Data, 2010 Estimates and 2009 American Community Survey Information							
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## **Commission Recommendations**

- Creation of job training programs for noncollege-bound students
- Diversification in job types and industries being recruited and receiving City incentives
- Council create a task force to address the issues brought forth through community feedback