

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.

Community Concerns

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

Catalysts for Heightened Concern

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

Group Solutions Report

- Process:
 - 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 African Americans experience challenges different from others in Austin? (YES)
 - What 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.

African American Quality of Life Initiative

- 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.

Highlights of Final Report

- Annual Urban Music Festival held each year during Texas Relays Weekend
- Full month each year of African American entertainment in the City Hall Plaza on Fridays
- Priority bookings for "Pro Arts Alliance", Austin's oldest African American performing arts group, at the Carver Museum
- Enhanced "Early Warnings" behavior system for problem police officers
- Increased diversity training for police officers
- Exterior façade programs for historic businesses in the 11th & 12th Street corridor

Highlights of Final Report (Cont.)

- Partnership with AISD and the County to assess challenges facing African American children in school
- Created historic African American Heritage District (located btwn Manor Rd. and 7th Street, east of IH-35)
- Creation of an African American Cultural Center & Visitors Bureau (2012)
- Minority Chambers participating in Austin Chamber of Commerce trips
- Minority Chambers involved in the Austin Chamber of Commerce selection and interviewing of companies seeking incentives relocating to Austin
- Maintaining the "African American Quality of Life Commission", to continue our efforts to attract and maintain African Americans in the community

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

Current Demographic Data

Population Profile Points

Census 2000 Data, 2010 Estimates and 2009 American Community Survey Information
with Special Focus on the City of Austin's African American Community

Data Item--Source	2000	2009/2010	Change	Notes
Population (1)				
Total Population	656,562	788,350	129,788	The City's African American Quality of Life Scorecard was prepared in 2009 using data from Census 2000. The Population Profile Points listing is based on data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.
Anglo (non-Hispanic White)	347,553	388,738	41,184	
African-American	64,259	64,251	-8	
Hispanic--Latino	200,579	273,879	73,300	
Asian	30,915	42,849	11,934	
Other	13,255	13,613	378	
Shares of Total Population				
Percent Anglo (non-Hispanic White)	52.9%	49.5%	-3.4	
Percent African-American	9.8%	8.2%	-1.6	
Percent Hispanic--Latino	30.5%	35.1%	4.6	
Percent Asian	4.7%	5.5%	0.7	
Percent Other	2.0%	1.7%	-0.3	

SOURCES: (1) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), 2009 one-year est., T. B3001A-1

(2) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's ACS, 2009 one-year estimates, Tables B30001 through B30001F

(3) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's ACS, 2009 one-year estimates, Tables B25003 & B25003B

(4) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's ACS, 2009 one-year estimates, Tables B17001 & B17001B

(5) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's ACS, 2009 one-year estimates, Tables B23001 & B23002B

(6) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's ACS, 2009 one-year estimates, Tables B15002 & B15002B

(7) US Census Bureau's Economic Censuses 2002 and 2007

Report prepared by: Ryan Robinson, City of Austin, Department of Planning, 1001 South Lamar Avenue, Austin, Texas 78704

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Data Item—Source	2000	2009/2010	Change	Notes
Family Income (2)				
Median Family Income: City of Austin	\$54,091	\$62,153	14.9%	On one page between demographic averages based on race and ethnicity have increased nationally and locally
Anglo (non-Hispanic White)	\$69,989	\$91,534	30.8%	
African American	\$15,685	\$19,473	10.0%	
Hispanic—Latino	\$16,408	\$34,061	40.0%	
Asian	\$61,500	\$86,000	42.5%	
Home Ownership (3)				
Overall Owner Occupancy: City of Austin	44.9%	35.9%	-9.9	The steep drop in home ownership for African Americans in Austin could be an artifact of the very small sample size of the ACS
African American	37.3%	31.2%	-6.1	
Poverty Rates (4)				
Overall Poverty Rate: City of Austin	14.4%	18.4%	4.0	
African American	19.9%	23.3%	2.8	
Unemployment (5)				
Overall Unemployment Rate: City of Austin	4.4%	7.3%	2.9	
African American	7.9%	15.3%	7.4	
Educational Attainment (6)				
Share of Adults 25+ with Bachelors or More	40.4%	43.9%	3.5	
Overall Share: City of Austin	19.0%	20.1%	1.1	
African American				
Business Ownership (7)				
African American Share of Business Ownership	2.5%	4.1%	1.6	

SOURCE: (1) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), 2000 one-year est., T. B1001A-F
(2) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's ACS, 2009 one-year estimates, Tables B10011 through B1001F
(3) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's ACS, 2009 one-year estimates, Tables B25003 & B25010
(4) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's ACS, 2009 one-year estimates, Tables B17001 & B17003
(5) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's ACS, 2009 one-year estimates, Tables B12001 & B12002B
(6) Census 2000 & US Census Bureau's ACS, 2009 one-year estimates, Tables B15002 & B15002B
(7) US Census Bureau's Economic Census 2002 and 2007

Report prepared by: Ron Wilson, the Executive Director of Austin's African American Community

Community Feedback

- Homeownership & affordable housing
- African American Business Development
- 12th Street Revitalization
- Education—disparities & drop out rate
- Funding for programs for youth & mentoring
- Job training for those not attending college

Commission Recommendations

- Creation of job training programs for non-college-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