#86

HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY OF LIFE

COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS

JUNE 27, 2013

HISTORY

- May 2008 Austin City Council passed a resolution initiating the Hispanic Quality of Life Initiative (HQL)
- Evaluate the quality of life for Hispanics/Latinos in Austin, TX as compared to Hispanics/Latinos nationwide
- A consultant coordinated community engagement efforts and combined the first phase of the report
- The Community Oversight Team incorporated
  - the consultant's information;
  - census data;
  - expert's testimony; and
  - community input into the second phase of the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Final Report

HISTORY

- The Community Oversight Team
  - met with hundreds of community members,
  - numerous community groups and
  - hosted a Hispanic Quality of Life Town Hall

- An additional set of recommendations for the City Council and the Austin community

- The Oversight Team requests that Council create a Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

THE HQL COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT TEAM

Teresa Perez-Wisely (Chair)

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AREAS OF INTERESTS

Education

Youth

Housing and Community Development

Cultural Arts

Economic Development

Health

Civic Engagement

Transportation

HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY OF LIFE

FINAL REPORT

EDUCATION

EDUCATION ISSUES

- Dropout rates in AISD in 2011 for Hispanic students in grades 9-12 was 13.1%
- 52% enrolled into a post-secondary school
- 39% were considered "college ready"
- Lack of summer youth programs, comprehensive mentoring programs, and an overall lack of training programs
- Increase collaboration between governmental, corporate and educational entities to foster student academic excellence

OUR EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Collaboration between the Joint Subcommittee of AISD, City of Austin and Travis County to consider the HQL recommendations
- Enhance partnerships and collaborations with local ISDs, governmental entities, area colleges and universities and nonprofit organizations.
- Creation of a youth court for truancy,
- Develop of educational programs,
- Implement preventative measures that will keep truant youth in school.
- Develop a career leadership academy

YOUTH SERVICES

YOUTH SERVICES ISSUES

- Hispanic/Latino youth make up a large population of the juvenile justice system
- Most Hispanic/Latino youth are unemployed or underemployed
- A lack of internships geared toward Hispanic/Latino youth
- Lack of resources for organized sports and other activities that promote youth development
- A need for organized activities for Hispanic/Latino females

OUR YOUTH SERVICES RECOMMENDATIONS

- An increase in opportunities for programs, trainings and youth development
- Collaboration among local school districts to create programs to reduce truancy and increase graduation rates
- An increase of health services for youth.
- Programs that enhance career building and employment opportunities

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

- Increasing property appraisals are leading to much higher property tax bills
- There's an increased need for affordable housing.
- 58% of the population live in rental homes
- Close to 50% of those renters pay a significant portion of their incomes as rent
- Rental housing is in short supply and the units are distributed unevenly across the city

OUR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote affordable housing core values:
  - Long-term Affordability;
  - Geographic Dispersion; and
  - Deeper Levels of Affordability.
- Housing Trust Fund to $1 million or more annually
- Create a local Hispanic Historic Preservation District
- Expand alternate revenue sources
- Develop affordable housing at the Betty Dunkerley Campus.
- Funding rehabilitation over demolition.
- Leadership and education for affordable housing and community development.
- Promote sustainable practices and preserve existing affordable housing.
- Include affordable housing in all future bond elections.

CULTURAL ARTS

CULTURAL ARTS ISSUES

- Access to a high quality of life, made possible in part by cultural arts services.
- Hispanic/Latino arts organizations have been historically underfunded
- Hispanic/Latino arts cultural institutions (e.g. ESBMACC, Mexic-Arte Museum) need additional support
- Funding for cultural arts should reflect its proportions to the total population.

OUR CULTURAL ARTS RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to Support Hispanic/Latino Facilities
  - Increase funding for construction, operations and programs for the ESBMACC
  - Increase funding and programming at recreation centers, senior centers and other PARD facilities

- Continue to Support the following:
  - 5th Street Mexican American Heritage Corridor;
  - Republic Square Park;
  - Mexic-Arte Museum;
  - Rainey Street-Historical Home Relocation; and
  - Saltillo Plaza.

OUR CULTURAL ARTS RECOMMENDATIONS

- The creation of a stand alone City Cultural Arts Division to do the following:
  - Include cultural and heritage festivals
  - Funding for the Capacity Building Program should be reinstated
  - Evaluate a funding system/formula
  - Create an outreach program
  - Designate a Hispanic/Latino music liaison as part of the Music Office

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

- Economic ventures is not equal to the proportion of the total population.
- Lack of opportunity for knowledgeable, experienced and local Hispanics/Latinos
- Austin's historic Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods have already been largely displaced
- Workers of projects should be guaranteed decent jobs, work safety, training and living wages

OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Fund an economic development corporation (EDC) that is owned by a Hispanic/Latino that is intended to benefit local Hispanics/Latinos
- Enhance partnerships requirements to ensure funding is connected to both performance and demographics
- Expand the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office's initiatives to include identification of Hispanic/Latino businesses seeking to expand to Austin
- Support a living wage of $11 or the Department of Labor prevailing wage for all City of Austin projects related to Chapter 380 agreements.

HEALTH

HEALTH ISSUES

- Diabetes prevalence for the Hispanic/Latino population in Travis County was 12%
- Obesity prevalence for the Hispanic/Latino population in Travis County was 41.8%
- 67% of all births to single mothers were Hispanic/Latino
- 76% of babies born to mothers younger than 20 were Hispanic/Latino.
- Healthy food options are not accessible to all members of the Austin community.
- Lack of promotion and ineffective outreach about healthy lifestyles and health prevention programs

OUR HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

- Work on improving the current service delivery model
  - Clarify role of the City of Austin in providing health care services
- An increased effort to cultivate and promote healthy lifestyles
  - Address hunger in our community
  - Provide ongoing support for organizations that conduct and facilitate programs and outreach for healthy lifestyles and disease prevention
- Funding for healthcare priorities
  - Increased collaboration and oversight of the 1115 Medical Waiver Program funds
  - Collaborate with Central Health on providing a primary health clinic services at the Betty Dunkerley Campus
  - Increase funding for teenage pregnancy prevention

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ISSUES

- Stronger efforts to engage the Hispanic/Latino community
- Increase Hispanic/Latino participation at City Council
- There is a lack of civic engagement across all Austin residents, including the Hispanic/Latino population.
- Provide bilingual, culturally sensitive presenters that will improve the community dialogue
- Public programs and materials are needed in both English and Spanish

OUR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Cultural competence training to City staff on Hispanic/Latino culture
- Community forums to inform and train Hispanic/Latino residents on important public policy issues
- Create and support Hispanic/Latino leadership development programs to engage in civic participation and public policy making processes

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

- Lack in transportation services and strategies for Hispanic/Latino youth
- Lack of transportation elements needed to increase safety
- All schools should have school zones around their boundaries
- Lack of shelter at bus stops and lack of storage capacity for baby strollers on buses

OUR TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve on neighborhood transportation safety issues in low income areas
- City work with local ISDs to ensure school zone signs are visible
- Focused outreach to minorities to include them in the transportation planning and decision-making processes
- City should work with Capital Metro to improve the bus stops, baby stroller storage and discounted fares

MOVING FORWARD

Creation of the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission

Questions?

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