

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Austin/Travis County HHSD 2012 Critical Health Indicators Report identified significant health disparities in Travis County for African American residents including disproportionate rates of mortality from diabetes, incidence of HIV and AIDS, and lack of access to prenatal care; and

WHEREAS, in recognizing the health disparities in the Austin community, the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department has initiated several programs targeted to the African American community including Maternal Infant Outreach Program (MIOP) which is a prenatal and postnatal program that will use Community Health Workers (CHWs) to improve birth and twelve-month postnatal outcomes and the Diabetes Project to increase community health workers and/or community-based organizations in the Hispanic and African-American communities that provide culturally appropriate diabetes self-management education; and

WHEREAS, African American Resource Advisory Commission Recommendation 20130807-004 noted that African American communities do not have adequate access to mental and behavioral health treatment because of various barriers such as lack of knowledge about available interventions, transportation difficulties, competing family responsibilities such as child care, family privacy and shame; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 Community Health Assessment for Austin/Travis County report revealed that “ While chronic diseases emerged as a key concern among participants and represent the leading causes of death in the region, the

need for mental health services was the foremost community health concern raised by residents. Additionally, it is evident that Blacks/African Americans and Latinos/Hispanics experience disproportionately higher rates of several health outcomes.”; and

WHEREAS, Huston-Tillotson University proposes the creation of the Community Health and Wellness Center, a campus/community based health center which will provide holistic physical health care services to students and the East Austin Community; and

WHEREAS, Huston-Tillotson University proposes, through the creation of the Community Health and Wellness Center, to fill a critical void of by providing culturally-sensitive minority practitioners to implement a three pronged approach of Patient Care, Research, and Community Interventions that action will significantly improve the environment of care for the minority residents of East Austin, improve the overall mental health of patients in the community, and enhance the quality of life for indigent populations; and

WHEREAS, the use of Huston-Tillotson University’s location for The Community Wellness Center would enhance and expand the provision of services to our East Austin Community; and

WHEREAS, The Huston-Tillotson University Wellness Center will offer primary healthcare and will specialize in areas of need for underserved people;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council supports Huston-Tillotson University's effort to create a wellness center for east Austin and believes it will be a significant addition to our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to keep Council apprised of opportunities to partner in the Huston-Tillotson University Wellness Center including potential participation in a near-term feasibility study.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk