

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Austin strives to ensure a stable and livable atmosphere that appeals to all demographics, and the City of Austin is committed to providing outreach to promote the welfare of all its diverse residents; and

WHEREAS, the examination of demographic data for Austin has revealed that specific communities experience a strikingly different quality of life from other Austin residents and more refined study is required to effectively identify disparities, develop strategies to target issues and monitoring to assure the wellbeing of all Austin residents; and

WHEREAS, the Austin African American Quality of Life (AAQL) Initiative was the result of work by the City of Austin, community leaders, neighborhoods and business owners in Austin and an initial report by the City Demographer was completed and delivered to City Council in March 2005; and

WHEREAS, the AAQL report included a scorecard of community indicators covering 10 different data themes using benchmarks to determine disparities for African Americans amongst peer cities in Texas and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, many of the rankings in the AAQL community scorecard were derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's data from the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, the AAQL Final Report was published on October 27, 2005 and used data from the scorecard and input from Austin citizens to make fifty-six targeted recommendations in six areas to be accomplished over a two-year period; and

WHEREAS, on May, 8, 2008 the city initiated the implementation of a Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Initiative and presented a report to council on June 27, 2013 with recommendations for action in eight categories over three years; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2013 the city initiated the implementation of an Asian American Quality of Life Initiative and the work to develop recommendations is currently expected to be complete in December, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Quality of Life reports have proven to be successful tools to create higher levels of community engagement, to create policies, and to identify resources to address the needs of certain communities; and

WHEREAS, the city has established citizen advisory commissions to provide input and oversight of these quality of life initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Human Rights Commission passed Recommendation No. 20140127-004a that encouraged the City Demographer to update the African American Quality of Life Scorecard for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 using 2010 Census Data; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of each of the quality of life initiatives, their associated advisory commissions and the responsiveness of the City of Austin would benefit from regular updates to the data on the community initiatives and scorecards; and; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City Manager is directed to conduct facilitated discussions in collaboration with community partners regarding the African American, Hispanic/Latino and Asian American Quality of Life Initiative to benchmark disparities for these communities amongst peer cities in Texas and the Nation; to develop strategies to address findings; and to establish a regular schedule for updating these initiatives and scorecards and to report back to the City Council within 90 days.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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