

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act directed that the poor have "maximum feasible participation" in poverty program planning; and

WHEREAS, the War on Poverty established over a thousand Community Action Agencies to implement Great Society programs; and

WHEREAS, Austin has a distinguished history of grassroots based Community Action Agencies such as the Montopolis Community Center, Inc., Child, Inc. as well as others.; and

WHEREAS, local community action agencies have been required to have tripartite governing boards to gain and retain designation as eligible entities and to receive Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program funding since 1968;

WHEREAS, the Community Development Commission functions as a CSBG advisory board in addition to advising the city council on the development and implementation of programs designed to serve the poor and the community at large with emphasis on federally funded programs.

WHEREAS, a minimum of one-third of the tripartite board must consist of democratically elected representatives of low-incomes individuals and families who currently reside in the geographic area being served; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the War on Poverty was to empower the poor to tackle poverty related issues in their own communities; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Community Development Commission recommends that the Austin City Council:

- no longer appoint the democratically elected Community Development Commission members. These members should serve at the pleasure of the communities that selected them.
- transform the Community Development Commission from an advisory board to a governing board for CSBG purposes.
- offer training for Community Development Commission members that will permit them to assiduously discharge their responsibilities, to include program development, planning, implementation and evaluation.