



## **Annual Internal Review**

**This report covers the time period of 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018**

### **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Quality of Life Advisory Commission**

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**The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:**

**§ 2-1-106 - LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

(F) The commission shall:

- (1) serve as an advisory body to the city council regarding issues actually or potentially affecting persons within the LGBTQ community or the LGBTQ community as a whole;
- (2) serve in an advisory and consultative capacity to the city council and any identified City departments with the aim of improving the ability of the City and its vendors, contractors, and consultants to serve, support, and employ the LGBTQ community;
- (3) recommend to the city council measures designed to enhance the health, safety, economic opportunity and affordability, mobility, cultural and learning opportunities, and government access and accountability for the LGBTQ community;
- (4) coordinate and/or participate in educational programs to promote equal treatment, opportunity, and understanding of persons within the LGBTQ community, and facilitate gatherings such as meetings, institutes, forums, or courses of instruction designed to lead to greater understanding and crafting of solutions for issues of concern of the LGBTQ community;
- (5) work with other city commissions to address issues of intersectionality;
- (6) create, guide, support, and evaluate LGBTQ quality of life initiatives; and
- (7) perform additional functions as required by the city council.

Source: [Ord. No. 20170302-007](#), Pt. 1, 3-13-17.

**1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.**

- a. *In our second meeting, on June 27, 2017 (although technically outside the time frame from this report, but since this is our first report, I decided to include it), the commission approved language for providing guidance to the City Manager Search Advisory Taskforce to ensure knowledge and experience on LGBTQ issues is part of their selection criteria.*
- b. *We knew (and still know) we must perform a Quality of Life Study to quantify and better understand the needs of the LGBTQ population in Austin. For that purpose, we passed a resolution requesting City Council fund such a study in our August 15, 2017 meeting. **City Council did not allocate any funding for this item in the 2017-2018 budget.***
- c. *HIV and AIDS continue to disproportionately affect the LGBTQ community, specifically men and women of color. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) has been identified as a very effective tool to stop new HIV infections. For this purpose, the commission voted to recommend to City Council a budget allocation for PrEP access services at our August regular meeting. **City Council did not allocate any new funding for this item in the 2017-2018 budget, but the Health and Human Services Department provided funding for a small pilot program.***
- d. *At the same meeting, we passed a resolution urging City Council to adopt policies supportive of the LGBTQ community considering recent actions by the Texas Legislature.*
- e. *When the Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC) was created, our commission did not exist. An LGBTQ representative was included in the city code, but they were to be appointed by City Council. With the creation of our commission, we felt it was appropriate that we had representation at the JIC in the same way as the other Quality of Life commissions. For this reason, at the September meeting we passed a resolution asking Council to amend the city code to include our commission in the relevant section.*
- f. *At the October meeting, we created working groups to inform the development of a work plan, with a focus on five areas: youth, schools, seniors, transgender, and health. The working groups held several public meetings out in the community over the next few months and reported their findings to the Commission. Those findings form the basis for our budget recommendations for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.*
- g. *Another working group was added in the November meeting to address intersectional disparities.*
- h. *One of the common issues raised in the LGBTQ community are interactions with the police, specifically for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. City Council passed CR20160505-027 directing the City Manager to improve training for our Police Department regarding their interactions with this population. No final training had been deployed at APD at the time of our March meeting, so the*

*Commission voted to adopt friendly correspondence to Interim Chief Manley on this issue.*

- i. *In May we unanimously adopted four budget recommendations for the City Manager, as follows:*
  - i. *Priority 1: Fund and conduct an initiative including a study in the amount of \$200,000 to evaluate and improve the quality of life of Austin's LGBTQ communities and residents in collaboration with community partners. The community study and the development of a final report is the commission's highest priority since it is critical for fulfilling our duties as a commission.*
  - ii. *Priority 2: Fund an additional Program Coordinator position within the Health Equity Unit at Austin Public Health to address health inequities and disparities within Austin's LGBTQ+ population.*
  - iii. *Priority 3: Austin Public Health will establish a variety of health promotion campaigns targeting the LGBTQ+ community in Austin in collaboration with community partners.*
  - iv. *Priority 4: Funding is requested to provide a Neighborhood Liaison staff position to support the commissions represented in the Joint Inclusion Committee. The staff would be located within the Equity Office.*
- j. *At the same meeting we also approved a recommendation to increase the Affordable Housing Bonds by \$18M and to double the allocations for home repairs, as those are critical issues for LGBTQ seniors.*

**2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.**

*Every one of the Commission's actions served to advance our mission as described in the City Code.*

**3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.**

- a. *Collaborate with City Staff to set the parameters for the RFP for the Quality of Life study.*
- b. *Collaborate with City Staff to track health disparities within Austin's LGBTQ population.*
- c. *Collaborate with all Commissions represented in the Joint Inclusion Committee to work with the Equity Office to address disparities affecting all minorities in Austin.*
- d. *Work with APD's new LGBTQ community liaison to ensure the new training for interacting with transgender and gender non-conforming residents is implemented and its success measurable.*
- e. *Identify the top 2-3 goals from each Working Group and put together a plan to address them.*

Annual Review and Work Plan

*Year*

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