

Human Rights Commission  
Proposal: Public Forum on Homelessness

**Title:** Public Forum on Homelessness

**Organization:** Human Rights Commission

**Sponsors:** Vice Chair Kristian Caballero, Commissioner Alicia Weigel, Commissioner Nathan White

**Target Audience:** Public

**Objective:** The City of Austin recently passed Ordinance No. 20190620-185 regarding the decriminalization of sitting, lying or camping in public spaces; with the intention to alleviate the burden on the homeless population. Unfortunately, there has been a lot of misinformation and fear-based assumptions about the ordinance in the community; resulting in hysteria and violent attacks towards the homeless population. This has become a serious concern and needs to be addressed as a human rights issue, by properly engaging, educating, and discussing homelessness with the public.

**Agenda:** In this forum, we will lead a panel discussion about (1) Ordinance No. 20190620-185 and its modifications, (2) Issues and the root causes of homelessness, (3) Comprehensive solutions to reduce homelessness. This forum will give the public the opportunity to participate, ask questions, and expand the discussion.

**Panelists:** City Officials/Staff, Non-profit Organizations, Affordable Housing Developers, and Community Leaders/Advocates.